

*southern California Edison*  
**2022-WMPs – 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates**

**DATA REQUEST SET M G R A - S C E - 0 0 4**

**To: MGRA**  
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**Response Date: 6/8/2022**

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**Question 08:**

In SCE's Reply Comments, SCE states that:

"The utilities agree that covered conductor is effective at mitigating several drivers and early results have been positive, but MGRA's analysis is flawed and its recommendation should be rejected. The Joint IOU Covered Conductor Effectiveness Report provides substantial support for a current overall effectiveness of covered conductor between 60-70%. This is supported by benchmarking, the Phase 1 testing results, utility SMEs, and recorded results."

In the Joint IOU Covered Conductor Effectiveness Report, SCE states that:

"SCE is measuring the overall effectiveness of covered conductor by comparing events (primary wire downs, primary conductor caused ignitions and faults) on fully covered circuits to bare circuits in its HFRA on a per-mile basis in current years. As of November 2021, SCE's wire down and fire data does not show any events occurring on fully covered circuits."

What is SCE's posited explanation of why there were no measured wire down or ignition events on fully covered circuits as of November 2021?

**Response to Question 08:**

Many factors contribute to the lack of wire down or ignition events on fully covered circuits as of November 2021. However, the main factor is that covered conductor reduces the occurrence of fault events, especially fault events driven by contact from objects (CFO). The large amount of energy associated with faults may lead to ignitions. Additionally, faults can weaken the conductor to the point of failure, resulting in a wire down. As mentioned in the Joint IOU Covered Conductor Effectiveness report, fully covered circuits experienced 85% less, or 15%, of the faults caused by CFO as compared to bare conductor. This reduction in fault events will therefore reduce the risk of ignition and wire downs. Also, the minimal number of faults that did occur during this period did not cause enough damage to lead to a wire down or cause a reportable ignition.

Since November 2021, SCE has had only 1 wire down on a fully covered HFRA circuit due to a large tree falling into the line. SCE has already estimated that covered conductor has a low effectiveness against heavy trees falling into the line. But even with this wire down event, SCE has had 0 ignitions on fully covered HFRA circuits. This track record further illustrates that covered conductor is highly effective in mitigating ignition events, especially those caused by contact from objects.