



### Criteria for SCE Tree Removal

SCE removes dead or dying trees that could fall onto our electrical facilities – even those on private land.

The criteria SCE uses in determining which trees to remove **may include the following:**

- The distance between the tree and SCE's lines or facilities is equal to or less than the tree's height.
- The tree is dead, dying or diseased due to drought or bark beetle infestation.
- The tree is located within a designated drought and bark beetle infested area within SCE's service territory.

### Edison's "Make-Safe" program

Only specially-trained tree trimmers can work near powerlines. Homeowners who hire their own tree trimmers to prune or remove trees near lines must first notify SCE. This includes work on any tree within 10-feet of SCE lines or trees that could come in contact with lines or equipment if they fall.

SCE has a "make-safe" program. As part of this program, SCE will assess and remove portions of trees to a level that would allow other workers without this training to remove or prune the rest of the tree.

**For all inquiries**, please contact Customer Support: **(800) 655-4555**

Please visit us at: [sce.com](http://sce.com)

2018

# SCE TREE REMOVAL

## IN DROUGHT AND BARK BEETLE INFESTED AREAS

This fact sheet is an update from Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding its efforts to remove hundreds of thousands of dead, dying, or diseased trees.



# SCE TREE REMOVAL IN DROUGHT AND BARK BEETLE INFESTED AREAS

The safety of our customers, communities and employees is our top priority and a core value here at SCE.

For years, we've been working to reduce the risk of wildfires within drought and bark beetle infested areas by removing dead, dying and diseased trees that threaten our power lines. Since 2014, SCE has removed more than 113,000 of these trees.

We partner with a number of state and local agencies in this effort, including CALFire, US Forest Service, the California State Tree Mortality Task Force and the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce.

Customers will be provided advanced notice prior to any work. We also work closely with property owners to make arrangement for the removal of trees on private land near our facilities.

White Fir mortality on USFS lands near SCE's Dinkey Creek



## Background and Timeline

The frequency and severity of droughts have increased in recent years, particularly here in California and other parts of the southwest. Due to drought conditions and resulting bark beetle infestation, California has experienced a major die-back (a tree dying from the outside in) of trees in our forests, and a decline in our overall forest health.

- April 2003: State regulators direct SCE and other utilities to remove dead and dying trees that could fall onto utility electrical facilities.
- January 2014: California Governor Jerry Brown declares a state of emergency due to drought.
- October 2015: The Governor declares another state of emergency as the state faces "the worst epidemic of tree mortality in its modern history" as a result of severe drought and bark beetle infestations.
- December 2017 – The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announces that an additional 27 million trees have died in the past year, bringing the total number of trees that have died due to drought and bark beetles to a historic 129 million. The dead trees continue to pose a hazard to people and critical infrastructure. .

## SCE's Response to the Challenge

SCE established the Drought Resolution Initiative and Bark Beetle Project to address tree mortality. SCE continues to work with state and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and various stakeholders to coordinate emergency protective actions and monitor ongoing conditions.

SCE routinely patrols utility lines for dead, dying, or diseased trees. Crews walk the area and attempt to inspect each tree to determine the tree's health. Dead or dying trees are marked and tagged for removal.

SCE works with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other regulatory agencies to ensure that all environmental requirements are met. The USFS and SCE have identified and mapped environmentally sensitive areas and use trained environmentalists, biologists, and archeologists at these locations to monitor tree removals. SCE hires qualified contractors to prune and remove trees.

Since 2014, SCE has removed over 113,000 dead and dying trees that threatened public safety and SCE electrical facilities in the drought and bark beetle infested zones.



**DOWNLOAD** the "Tree Mortality – Drought and Bark Beetle, What Property Owners Need to Know" flyer and other information from this website: