

Inspecting and Upgrading Utility Poles

Starting in 2014, Southern California Edison (SCE) began a multi-year program to ensure that poles aren't carrying too much weight and can withstand heavy winds. We're assessing the more than 1.4 million poles in our system – that's hundreds of poles each day. We project that we will replace up to 35,000 poles every year through 2025.

Why we're inspecting every pole

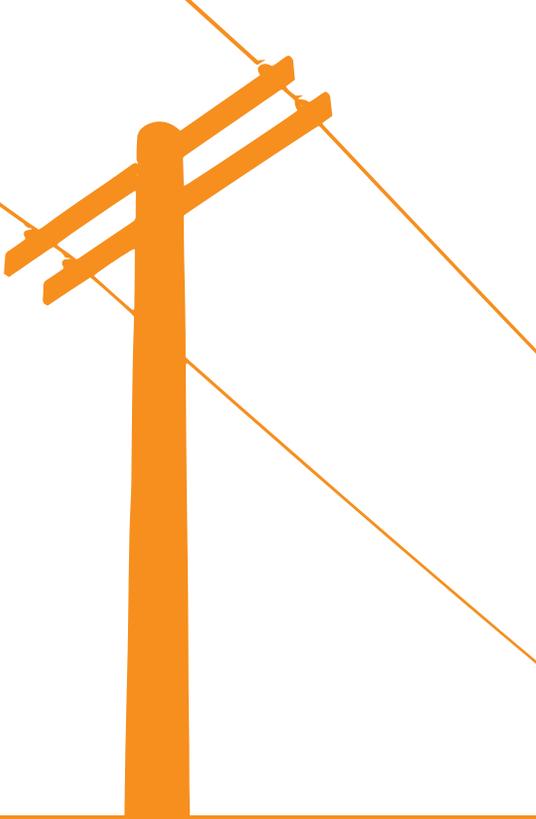
We need to ensure they meet safety standards. A third-party study on pole loading in 2012 found more than 75% of the 5,000 power poles inspected in SCE's service territory either met or exceeded the utility's standards and exceeded requirements of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Most of SCE's poles were installed just after World War II and the methods we currently use to measure safety have changed. We have better tools to calculate how the pole is affected by the load (weight of equipment and wind) — a necessity since new communication technology requires utilities to install more equipment than in the past. About 70 percent of the poles in our service territory are jointly owned with other utilities.

What to expect

Our pole-loading assessment takes about 30 minutes, and crews don't need to access your home or building. If our pole is in your backyard, we'll knock first to see if you're home before trying to access the pole. If we can't, we'll leave a door hanger asking you to call and schedule a time when we can return to complete the inspection.

Your power will not be interrupted during the pole inspections. However, if a pole needs to be replaced or repaired, it may be necessary to turn the power off for the safety of our workers. If your home or business will be affected by an outage, we will notify you in advance so that you can be prepared. To learn more about safety during outages, please see SCE.com/OutageCenter.



Inspecting and maintaining every pole in our service territory is part of the work we do routinely.

It's part of our ongoing investment in maintenance and safety to ensure that we continue to deliver reliable electric service.

Who's doing the inspections

In addition to our SCE crews, you'll see our contractors' crews in your neighborhood conducting pole inspections. Four contractors are authorized to do this work: Cyient, Utility Data Contractors (UDC), RDI Engineering, and IJUS. For your safety, all crew members carry an Edison-authorized identification badge. Door signs on our contractors' vehicles identify their crews as SCE contractors.

Customers with pole-loading assessment questions may call 1-800-655-4555.