



# Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

Public Workshop

April 27, 2021



# Purpose of Today's Meeting: Inform & Ask

## Inform

- Why is BPA developing a PSPS Plan?
- What comprises PPS Plan and how it fits into the BPA Wildfire Mitigation Plan?

## Ask

- What are your communications preferences when BPA is considering enacting a PPS?
- What information do you want as you prepare to notify your end use customers of BPA PPS actions?

# BPA PSPS Resources

- **Michelle Cathcart**, Vice President, Transmission Operations
- **Meg Albright**, Operations Support Manager
- **Chris Sanford**, Real Time Operations Director
- **Dan Nuñez**, Asset Management Risk & Strategy
- **Erik Pytlak**, Supervisory Meteorologist
- **Troy Simpson**, Account Executive
- **Doug Johnson**, Senior Spokesperson
- **Peter Cogswell**, Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist
- **John Nguyen**, Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist
- **Dominic Caudron**, Emergency Management Specialist

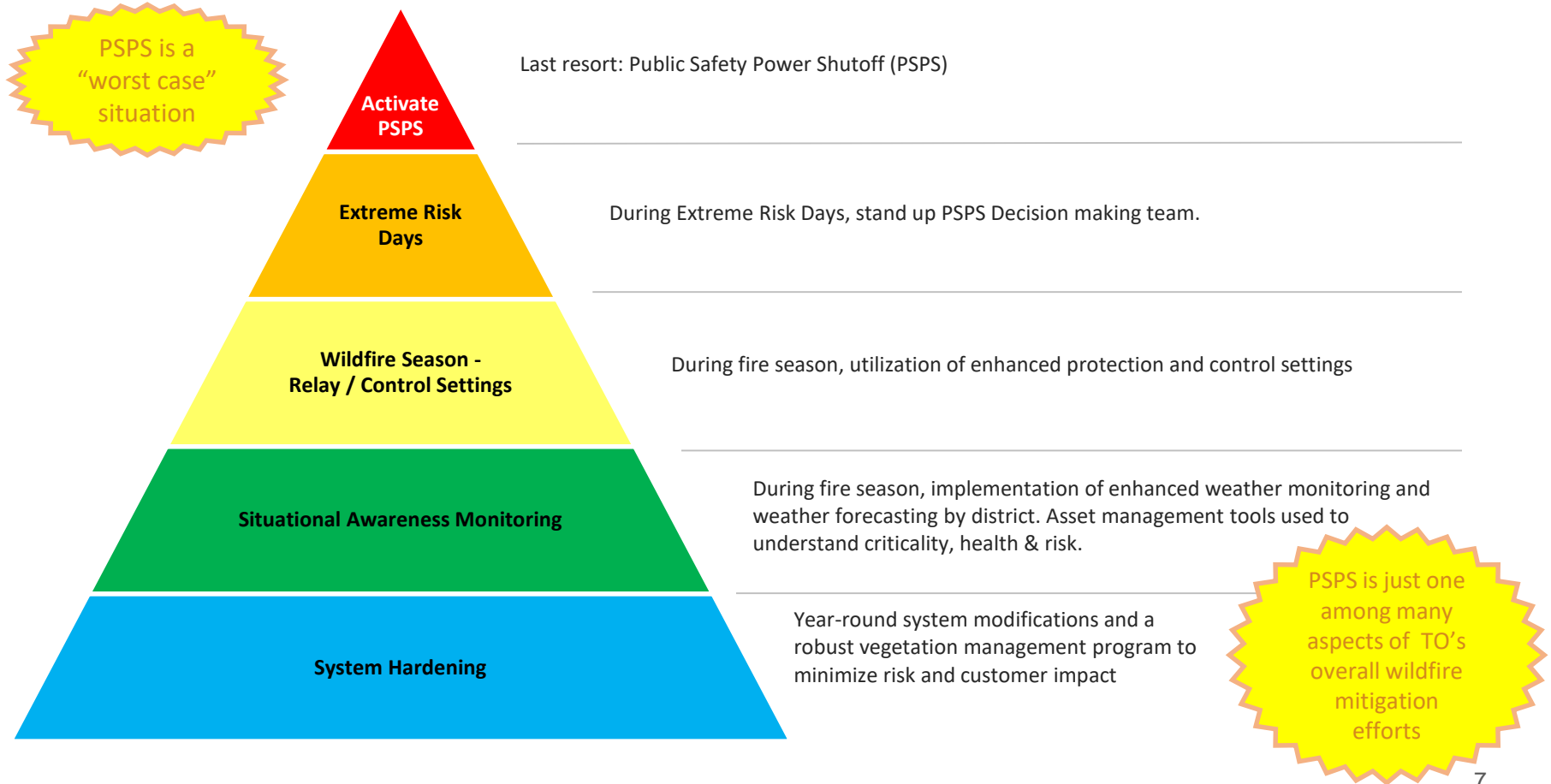
# Agenda

- Project Background
- How PSPS Fits into the Wildfire Mitigation Program
- Communications
- Questions

# Project Background

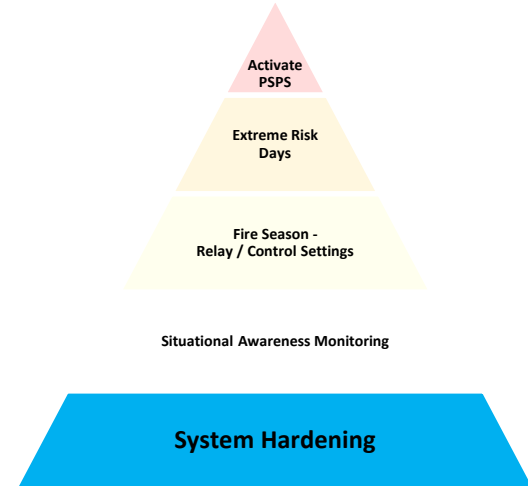
- The 2020 BPA [Wildfire Mitigation Plan](#) briefly addressed the possibility of preemptively shutting-off transmission assets in response to wildfire conditions to ensure public safety.
- Internal discussions and regional actions taken in response to the September 2020 wildfires, and increasing severe weather events, spurred BPA to develop more specificity regarding the agency's preemptive shutoff policies and protocols.
- During fire season (typically ranging from May to October) there may be emergency conditions or weather triggers that require BPA to de-energize certain assets to minimize a potential uncontrolled ignition.
- BPA's PSPS is an additional aspect to wildfire mitigation and builds on our existing tools and methods to address wildfire concerns.

# How PSPS Fits into the Wildfire Mitigation Program



# System Hardening

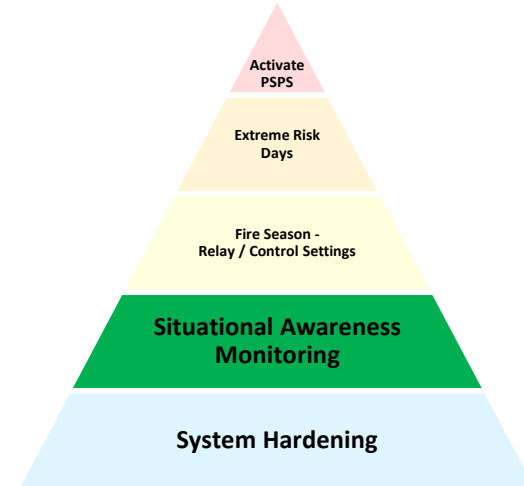
- BPA using risk based analytics to prioritize and scale investments based on regional risk.
- Hardening includes new resiliency metrics to expand historic design standards to build resiliency into assets. Examples: access roads as fire breaks, hardware redundancy in high ignition areas.
- Long-term planning includes regional overlay of highest risk areas from wildfire and identification of line rebuilds as well as emergency maintenance correctives.
- Due to the sensitivity of identifying critical assets, BPA does not intend to share the list of most vulnerable lines.





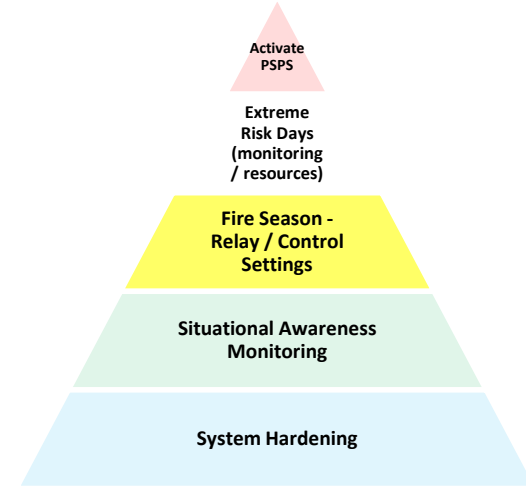
# Situational Awareness

- Transmission Weather Alerts during fire season for conditions where wind gusts  $\geq 60$  mph are combined with National Weather Service Red Flag Conditions, within Transmission District(s), about 48 hours in advance.
- GIS overlays of riskiest wildfire areas identified through Criticality, Health & Risk for situational awareness triggers that allow for coordinated responses including material preparation, outage planning and patrols.



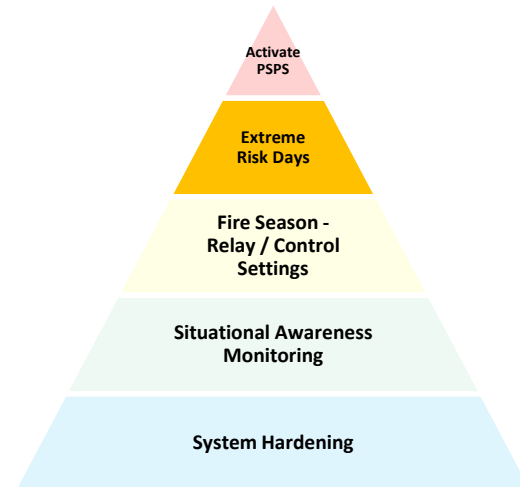
# Fire Season Operations

- Disable reclosing on certain lines
- More use of Patrols
- Less use of manual testing



# Extreme Risk Days

- Field preparations
- USFS coordination
- Stand up PSPS Decision Team



# Activate PSPS – Decision Criteria

BPA Transmission Operations has the sole authority whether or not to activate a PSPS.

## **PSPS enactment decision considerations:**

- 1) Local weather conditions, and confidence level in the forecast
- 2) Load and generation impacts to customers
- 3) Path impacts—grid reliability & stability
- 4) What BPA's customers in the affected area are doing or planning
- 5) Information on critical loads, if available
- 6) Wildfire risk presented by BPA assets in the impacted area



# Activate PSPS – Communication

- **Operational Communication:** BPA Operations and Dispatch personnel will discuss PSPS plans with Operations personnel of adjacent utilities through normal utility to utility Operations channels.
- **Non-Operational Communication:** BPA's Transmission Customer Account Executives will attempt to reach our retail utility customers and regional stakeholders through calls and emails. We will also use BPA's website ([www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)), social media, and local news outlets to keep customers informed and updated as appropriate.
- **Note:** It is vital that BPA has current contact information.



# Activate PSPS – Restoration

Follow standard restoration process following De-energization to ensure safe operations

- Patrol lines
- Clear vegetation (as applicable)
- Fix damage (as applicable)
- Re-energize
- Communicate



# Next Steps

- April 27 to May 11, 2021:
  - Submit comments to BPA via [techforum@bpa.gov](mailto:techforum@bpa.gov) and your Transmission Account Executive
  - These will be directed to the team for consideration
- May 22, 2021:
  - BPA Response to comments
  - BPA Publishes PSPS as section in Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- June 1, 2021:
  - PSPS plan in place



# Questions