

APRIL 30, 2026

XCEL ENERGY 2026 NEWS AND UPDATES

Xcel Energy's Mitigation Efforts
Reducing operational risk and getting to “Go”



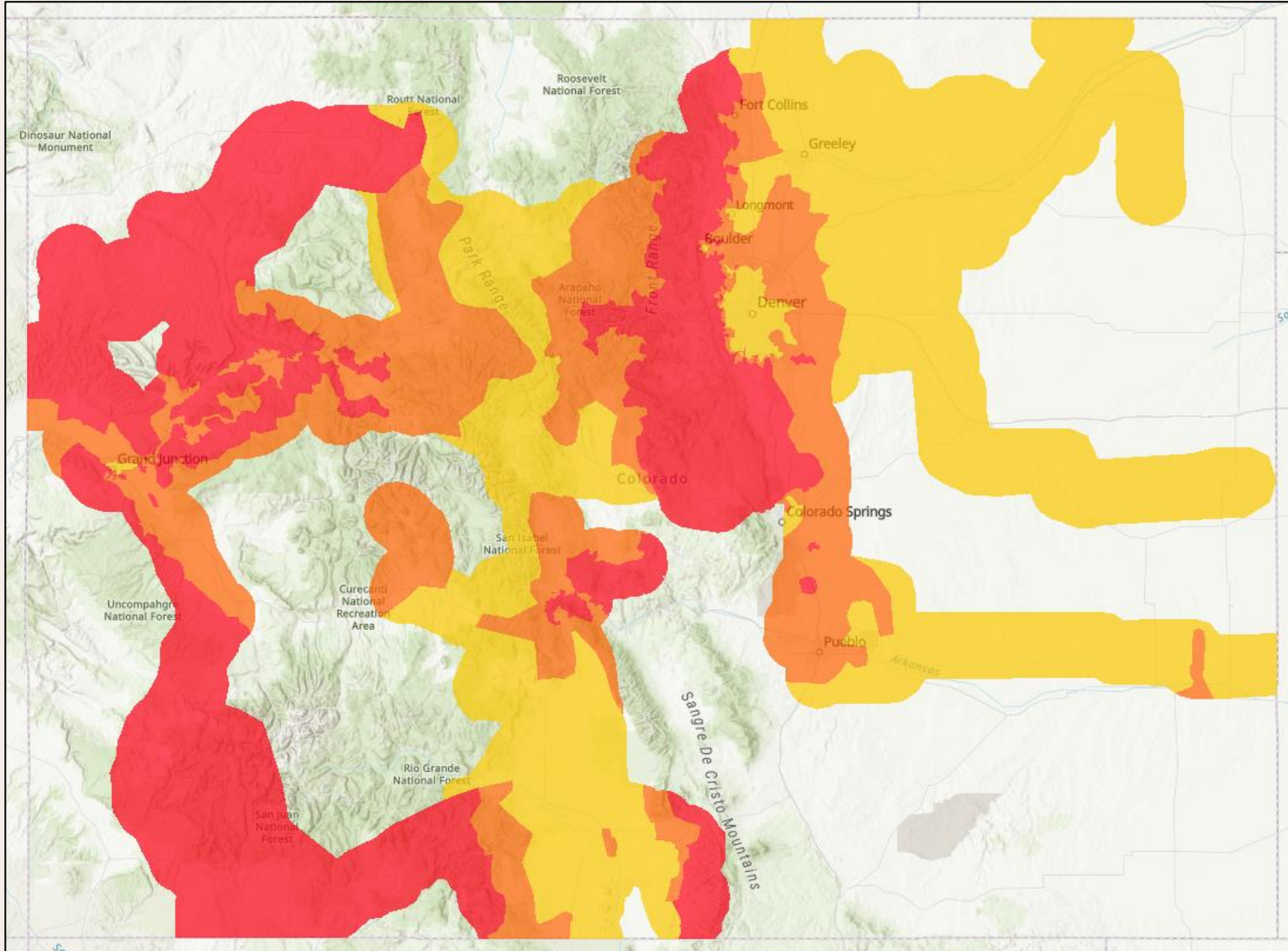


WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS

What are we doing to prepare communities for wildfire risk?
How are we reducing outages from wildfire risk and how does that
improve restoration post-PSPS?



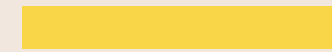
WILDFIRE RISK IN COLORADO



[View our interactive Wildfire Risk Tier map](#)

Color

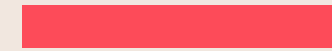
Tier



Tier 1



Tier 2



Tier 3

Tier

Description

Tier 1

Areas with significant human development and/or surfaces resistant to fire.

Tier 2

Areas where wildfire may cause significant damage to human infrastructure due to fuel continuity and terrain.

Tier 3

Areas where wildfire will likely rapidly become large, destructive or catastrophic events due to fuel continuity and population density.

2025 – 2027 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN OVERVIEW

REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK WHILE PROMOTING RESILIENCY

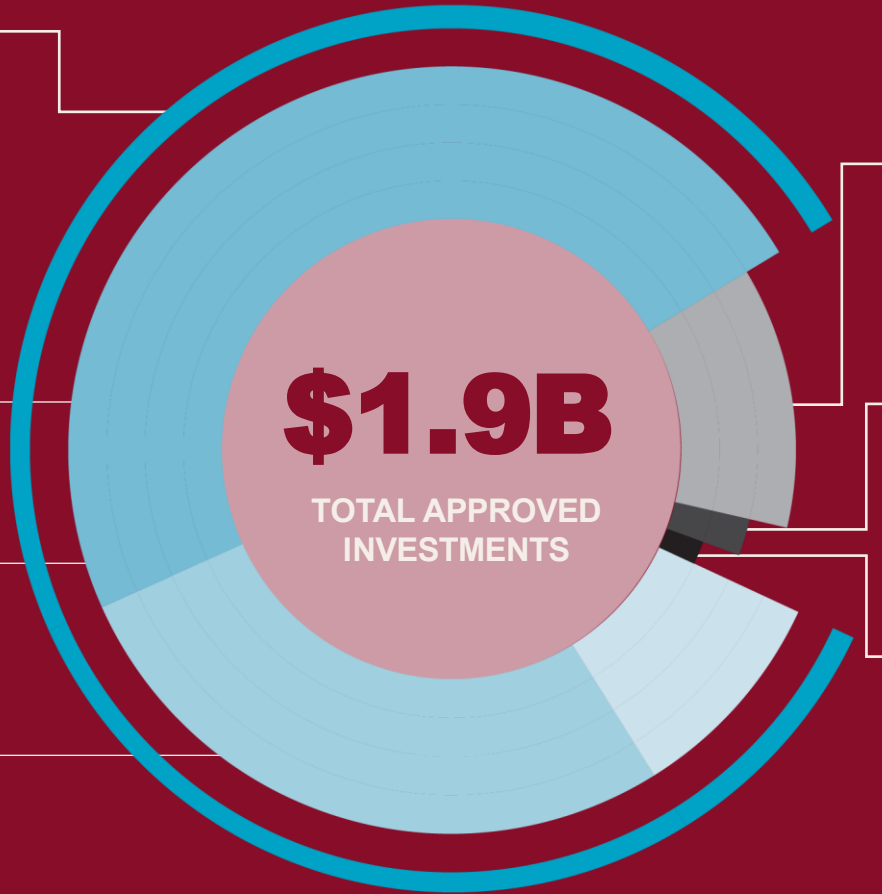
82.7%

System Resiliency
\$1.56 billion

57% Pole Remediation Efforts
\$897 million

32% Power Line Related Improvements
\$496 million

11% Vegetation Management and Tech Services
\$175 million



11.5%

Operational Mitigations
\$217 million

1.3%

Customer & Other Support
\$24 million

4.5%

Situational Awareness
\$50 million



System Resiliency

50

miles of underground power lines

10,000

pole replacements, with a focus on higher risk areas



Operational Mitigations

100%

feeders enabled with Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) capability for higher risk areas



Situational Awareness

3x

the number of AI-enabled wildfire monitoring cameras

29,000

non-traditional fault detection sensors deployed



WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW



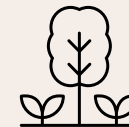
System Maintenance and Upgrades

We're conducting enhanced maintenance, upgrading equipment and strengthening the reliability of power lines and other equipment to reduce the potential for ignitions.



Preventative Measures

We're leveraging Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings and, when needed, Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), to help reduce wildfire risk.



Vegetation Management

Our crews continually clear trees, brush and grass around power lines to reduce or eliminate potential fuel sources for fires.



First Responder & Community Outreach

We're reaching out to local officials, first responders and the communities we serve to better understand the unique needs of each community.



Advanced Technologies

We're enhancing our situational awareness by integrating advanced technologies to help make data-driven decisions that protect our communities.



Safety and Preparedness

We regularly share and update safety information and resources to help prepare our communities for outages and potential wildfires.



REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK IN OUR COMMUNITIES



ENTERPRISE COMMAND CENTER

Monitors wildfire conditions and supports event response

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: Risk modeling software evaluates current and forecasted weather conditions, wind speed, moisture and ground fuel conditions to predict potential wildfire spread



LiDAR

LiDAR equipped helicopter inspections create 3D maps of our equipment to perform wind strength analysis



ENHANCED POWERLINE SAFETY SETTINGS

We operate our system more conservatively when wildfire conditions are elevated— if an object strikes the line or a fault occurs, protective devices shut off the power until it can be safely restored

WILDFIRE DETECTION CAMERAS

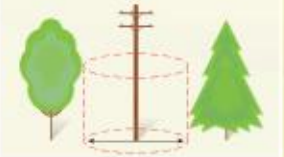
AI-enhanced cameras speed the process of wildfire detection and response



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Pole brushing



UNDERGROUNDING

Burying power lines, where possible, helps reduce wildfire ignition risk



WEATHER DATA

Local weather conditions are used to inform Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings and when we can perform work safely



DRONE INSPECTIONS

Inspecting the electric system to identify equipment needing repair



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Connecting with local stakeholders to understand the unique needs of each community



SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

We provide safety tips to help you prepare for potential wildfires and power outages



SUBSTATION



SYSTEM HARDENING

System rebuild projects to upgrade electric lines within wildfire zones to wildfire rated equipment

LEARN MORE AT

my.xcelenergy.com/s/outage-safety/wildfires

Note - the tools and techniques used to reduce wildfire risk vary across the communities we serve.

ONGOING COLORADO WILDFIRE MITIGATION WORK

We've invested **millions in wildfire mitigation activities.**

In 2024 alone, these measures included:



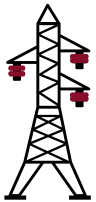
8,337

**DISTRIBUTION
POLES
REPLACED**



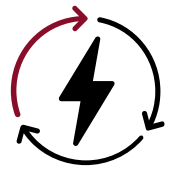
18,740

**DISTRIBUTION
POLES INSPECTED**
USING UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS
(DRONES)



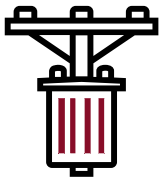
345

**PRIORITY
REPAIRS
ON TRANSMISSION
EQUIPMENT**



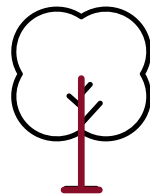
2,832

**MILES OF TRANSMISSION LINE
INSPECTED**
USING VISUAL INSPECTIONS



18

**SUBSTATION
PROTECTION
RELAYS INSTALLED**



108%

**COMPLETION RATE OF PLANNED
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**
EXCEEDING 90% ANNUAL GOAL





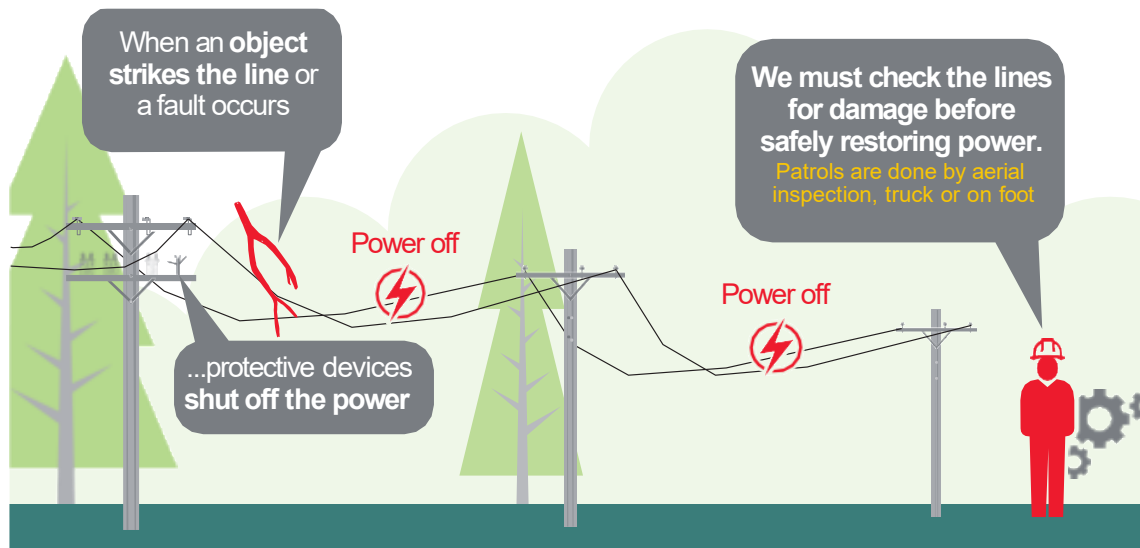
REDUCING OPERATIONAL RISK AND GETTING TO “GO”

Explaining EPSS and PSPS



EPSS IS A PROVEN WILDFIRE MITIGATION TOOL

EPSS allows for power lines to remain in-service during periods of elevated wildfire risk, with protection settings enabled.



When EPSS is activated, power lines are more sensitive and can quickly stop the flow of energy if an issue is detected, like a tree branch or other object touching the line. When that occurs, the power will remain off until our crews can inspect the line to make sure it's safe to turn it back on.

It is intended to enhance public safety during heightened risk conditions, but it means power outages are likely to occur more frequently, and if they do, are likely to last longer because crews need to patrol the line before restoring power.

EPSS is used in risk zones identified by the CO State Forest Service and risk probability models considering factors like weather, housing density, terrain, miles of overhead lines.

PSPS IS A TOOL OF LAST RESORT

When deciding whether to implement a PSPS, we consider three factors: wind speed, relative humidity, and fuel/vegetation moisture. PSPS is only considered when all three factors indicate extreme wildfire risk in specific areas. This is not a step we take lightly.



Extreme Wind Speed

Wind speeds greater than or equal to the 99th percentile at specific locations.



Low Relative Humidity

The air is dry, meaning there is a small amount of water vapor in the air compared to what the air can hold at a given temperature.



Low Fuel Moisture

Presence of drier fuel sources, calculated by considering day length, hours of rain and daily temperature and humidity ranges

COMPARING EPSS AND PSPS

EPSS and PSPS are only used when weather conditions, including the temperature, wind speed, relative humidity and available fuel sources, indicate an elevated or extreme risk for wildfire.

ENHANCED POWERLINE SAFETY SETTINGS (EPSS)



EPSS allow power lines to remain in service during periods of high wildfire risk with additional protection settings enabled to enhance public safety.

Customers impacted by EPSS may experience more frequent or longer outages. This is because crews must inspect power lines and the surrounding area to ensure it's safe to restore service.

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS (PSPS)



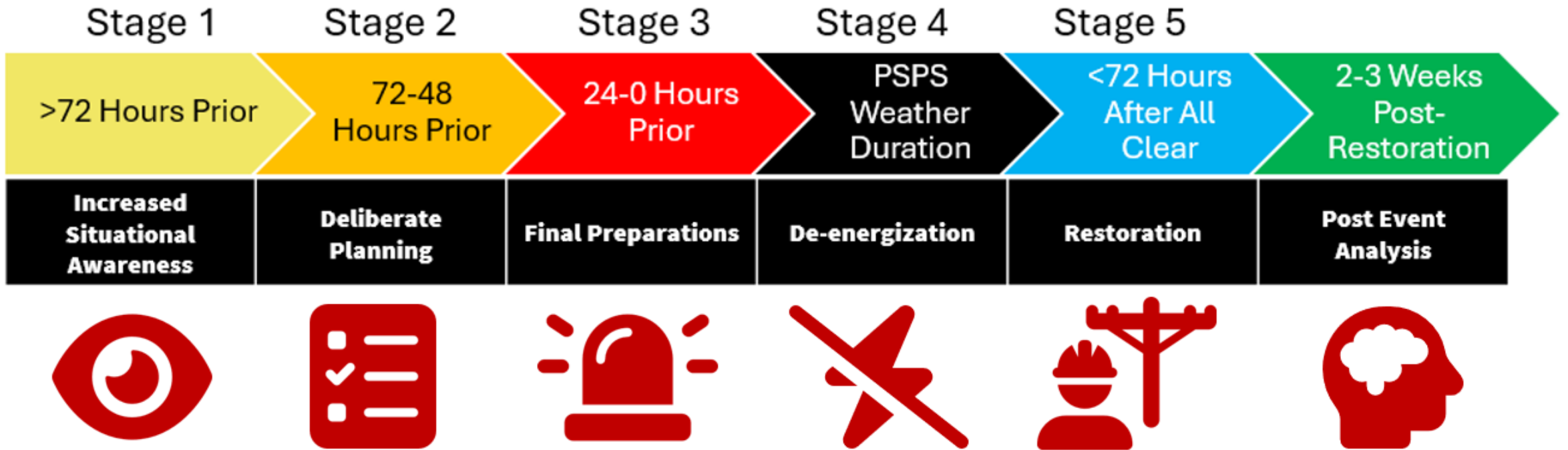
PSPS is a risk reduction strategy in which we temporarily turn off electricity to customers in targeted areas during extreme or critical wildfire risk conditions.

Proactively shutting off the power is not a step we take lightly. We work closely with our customers and communities to help them prepare and connect them with available resources.

We're committed to continuous improvement and working to identify opportunities to reduce the frequency, duration, extent and number of customers impacted by potential power disruptions.

EVENT PROCESS

How the company approaches and performs a PSPS



PSPS COMMUNICATIONS PLAYBOOK

Severe weather in the forecast, including high winds and low relative humidity, indicates heightened wildfire risk and the potential need for a PSPS.

48-72 Hours in Advance of PSPS

POTENTIAL FOR EVENT



PRE-EVENT



48-72 Hours in Advance of PSPS

Severe weather forecast persists, and it appears likely that we will need to conduct a PSPS within the next 72 hours.

Due to weather conditions and increased wildfire risk, we decide that a PSPS event is necessary to prevent possible wildfires.

1-4 Hours in Advance of PSPS

GO DECISION



EVENT



Every 24 Hours during PSPS

During a PSPS, we continue to communicate with affected customers, provide updated information to the community and assess risk on the ground.

Once we have determined that wildfire risk has subsided, and conditions have improved, we will begin the restoration process.

Our crews visually inspect and patrol all power lines to ensure it is safe to turn service back on. Power is restored segment by segment once inspected and cleared.

RESTORATION





PSPS EVENTS DEC. 17-19, '25



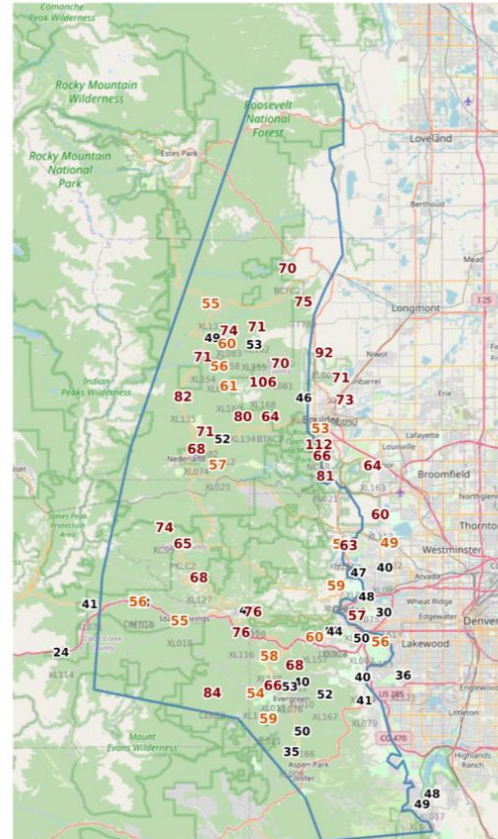
What happened?

What was the company's decision-making process?

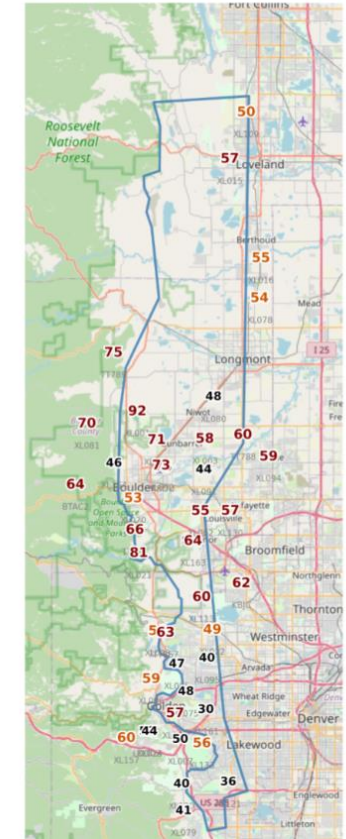
PSPS SCOPE DECEMBER 19, 2025

- Two polygons of the Dec. 19 PSPS areas, one west of the foothills (Evergreen) and one east (Golden, Arvada).
- Dec. 17th PSPS impacted about 50,000 customers
- Dec. 19th PSPS impacted about 60,000 customers
- Upwards of 120,000 total outages including weather impacts and PSPS

AOC PSCo Zone 3 North - 12/19/2025 PSPS Event — Wind Gust (mph)



AOC PSCo Zone 5 - 12/19/2025 PSPS Event — Wind Gust (mph)



METEOROLOGY FORECASTS AND RECORDED WIND

National Weather Service criteria of Red Flag Warnings

- Relative humidity of **15% or less**
- Sustained surface winds, or frequent gusts, of **25 mph or greater**
- Both conditions must occur simultaneously for at least 3 hours in a 12 hour period

Xcel Energy's criteria for PSPS

- Wind speeds must be greater or equal to the 99th percentile of historic recorded winds
- Low relative humidity
- Low fuel / vegetation moisture

Weather conditions and dry vegetation supported the forecast of a very critical fire environment.

Weather station recordings on Friday, Dec. 19

- Golden Gate Canyon
 - A max gust of 59 mph at 1:10 PM and 8:20 PM, relative humidity (RH) below 20% from 9:40 AM until 10:30 PM
- 0.5 miles SE of Black Hawk
 - A max gust of 68 mph and minimum relative humidity of 13%. Wind gusts over 60 mph were observed from 3 AM to 8 AM, with humidity below 20% from 7 AM to 7 PM
- Pickle Gulch (3 miles north of Central City)
 - A Max wind gust of 65 mph and minimum relative humidity of 13%. Wind gusts exceeding 60 mph were observed from 6 AM to 8 AM, with humidity below 20% from 7 AM to 6 PM
- Corral Creek (west of Evergreen)
 - A max gust of 84mph, minimum relative humidity of 9%. Gusts 60+ mph observed from 1 AM to 10 AM, and again from 1 PM to 3 PM with humidity below 20% from 4 AM to 7AM



PSPS ACTUAL COMMUNICATIONS MILESTONES

- Contacted OEMs 80 hours in advance
- ICS activated @ 80 hours
- Local, state officials @ 72 hrs.
- Critical customers @ 72 hrs.
- OEM briefing @ 72 hours
- Medical device customers notified @ 80 hours
- Key Acct. outreach @ 72 hours
- Secondary stakeholders @ 72 hours

- News conf. release @ 2 hours
- PSPS activated at 1000
- OEM briefings 3X/day
- Customer comms
- Mass comms
- Local, state officials
- Key customer outreach ongoing
- 2ndary stakeholders @ 1000
- Resource centers planned
- Scoping for Dec. 19 event

All planned milestones met or exceeded

- OEM briefings 3X/day
- Mass Comms
- Customer comms
- Local, state officials
- Key customer outreach ongoing
- 2ndary stakeholders sent news releases
- Resource centers through Dec. 21



- Mass Comms @ 48, 24 hours
- Emails to medical device customers @ 48, 24 hrs.
- OEM Briefing calls @ 48, 24, 12 hours
- Local, state officials @ 48, 24 hrs.
- Key customer outreach ongoing
- 2ndary stakeholders @ 4, 24 hours

- OEM briefings 3X/day
- Mass Comms
- Customer comms
- Key customer outreach ongoing
- 2ndary stakeholders sent news releases
- Local, state officials
- Resource centers deployed, staffed
- Dec. 18 messaging for Dec. 19 event



RESTORATION

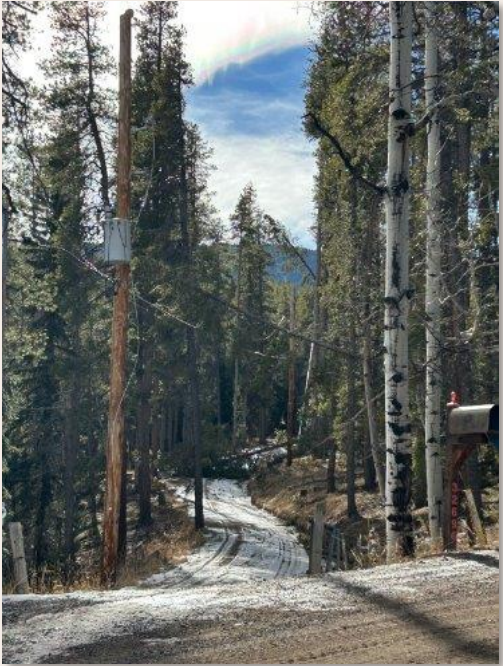


STORM RESTORATION



Arvada

Evergreen



Conifer

Golden





LESSONS LEARNED



XCEL ENERGY AFTER ACTION PLAN

What went well

- Communications to all stakeholders (business and residential customers, OEMs, state/local officials, critical customers, medical device customers, key accounts, media, etc.) were timely throughout the event
- 2,500 Critical Customer premises in total were contacted
- Daily outreach to key accounts, critical customers for 7 days
- American Red Cross partnership and shelters
- Teams handing out dry ice was popular among customers at Xcel Energy resource shelters

Where we can improve

- The online outage map and its automated estimated restoration times provided customers with inaccurate information, frustrating and confusing customers
- How to provide accurate restoration updates accounting for unknown damage, meteorology risk and repairs?
- Notification to tenants (non-account holders) could not take place with current capabilities
- Overall awareness of power shutoffs and how residential and business customers can be prepared for the next extended outage

- Hosted an average of 90-95 customers per day for three days in Evergreen.
- Staff handed out approximately 2,000 pounds of dry ice over four days in Evergreen.
- Staff provided updates to customers directly.
- Staff handed out water, coffee and snacks.



PREPARING FOR OUTAGES

If outages occur, it's important to have access to the most recent updates about power restoration.

Customers should make sure their account information and communications preferences are up to date through the [My Xcel Energy mobile app](#) or by visiting the [Xcel Energy website](#).

Building a Home Emergency Kit

- Acquire a first aid kit of sufficient size for the household and keep it stocked.
- Stock up on batteries and consider purchasing portable chargers and communications devices that do not require electricity, such as a battery-powered radio or a phone not reliant on electricity.
- Write down emergency numbers and critical contact information.

Medical and Food Considerations

- Keep an emergency supply of prescription and non-prescription medications on hand, and plan for medications, like insulin, that require refrigeration.
- Fully charge personal medical devices and ensure a backup power source is available for electrically powered medical equipment.
- Purchase non-perishable food (and a manual can opener if needed) and bottled water.



