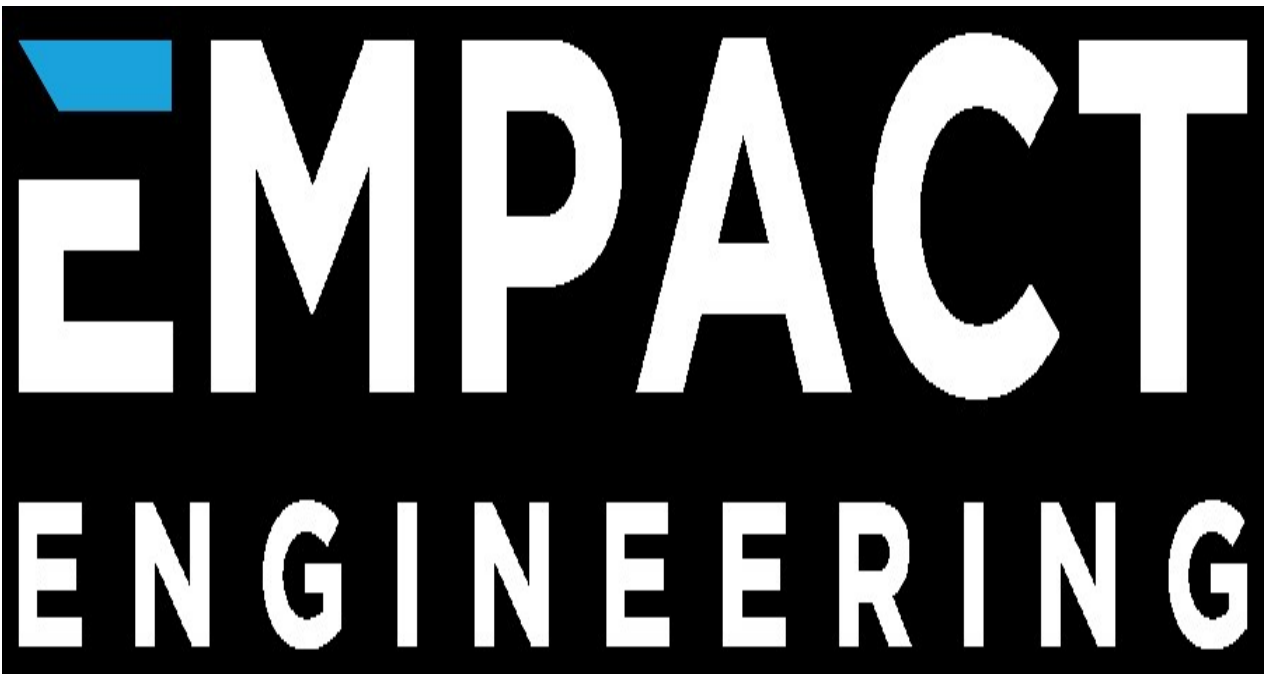




Utility Fire Mitigation Planning Supports Smarter Vegetation Management

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Growing concerns about wildfire risk and aging utility infrastructure are prompting many electric providers to take a closer look at how vegetation management decisions are made. EMPACT Engineering is helping utilities address this challenge by supporting utility fire mitigation planning with engineering-based assessments that provide greater visibility into vegetation conditions and system needs. As utilities continue balancing safety, reliability, and regulatory expectations, more organizations are looking beyond traditional maintenance schedules to better understand where attention is needed most.

For many utilities, vegetation management has long depended on manual field surveys to identify trees and brush requiring pruning, trimming, or removal. While experienced crews play an important role, this process can require significant time and labor while leaving room for subjective decision-making. In many service territories, distribution feeders are also maintained on fixed trimming cycles regardless of differences in terrain, vegetation density, weather patterns, or other environmental conditions. That approach may not always reflect the unique conditions present along each section of the electrical system.

As wildfire planning continues to evolve, utilities are increasingly evaluating ways to make vegetation

management more responsive to actual field conditions. Utility fire mitigation planning often involves analyzing vegetation growth, infrastructure, environmental factors, and operational priorities together rather than relying solely on calendar-based maintenance cycles. This broader perspective allows utility operators to better understand where resources may be directed while supporting long-term planning efforts across their service areas.

EMPACT Engineering works with utility organizations by applying engineering expertise, mapping technologies, and data analysis to support informed decision-making. Rather than depending exclusively on manual observations collected during scheduled inspections, engineering assessments can help utilities identify trends, prioritize locations for additional review, and evaluate vegetation conditions across larger portions of their systems. The result is additional information that can assist planning teams as they develop maintenance strategies that reflect local conditions.

Industry discussions have increasingly focused on the importance of using available data to strengthen vegetation management programs, particularly as weather patterns become less predictable and utilities face expanding service demands. Regions with varying elevations, changing climates, and diverse vegetation types often require different maintenance approaches from one feeder to another. Engineering analysis helps place those differences into context by supporting decisions with measurable information instead of assumptions based solely on fixed maintenance intervals.

This approach also supports collaboration among engineering teams, vegetation managers, operations personnel, and utility leadership. When planning efforts are informed by multiple sources of technical information, organizations are often better positioned to coordinate maintenance activities, evaluate priorities, and document planning decisions. Utility fire mitigation planning continues to be an area where utilities seek practical methods for organizing complex information into actionable strategies while maintaining consistency across large service territories.

As utilities continue adapting to changing environmental conditions and infrastructure demands, vegetation management remains an important part of system planning. Engineering support can provide another layer of insight that complements field experience and existing maintenance practices, helping organizations evaluate conditions with greater confidence while planning future work.

For more information about EMPACT Engineering and its engineering services for utilities, visit <https://empactengineering.com/>.

EMPACT Engineering is an engineering consulting firm serving utility clients with technical services that

support electric system planning, asset management, mapping, data analysis, and infrastructure projects. The company works with utilities across multiple service areas, providing engineering expertise that helps organizations evaluate complex operational challenges and make informed decisions that support long-term system management.

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