

Calif. regulators back fire safety rules following lethal infernos

By George Avalos, Bay Area News Group

State regulators last week approved new rules aimed at improving fire safety in multiple areas of California, a move taken after an array of deadly infernos in the North Bay and Southern California.

PG&E and other utilities in the fire-prone Golden State would be required to increase the minimum clearances between trees and other vegetation and electrical equipment such as power and transmission lines, under wide-ranging rules adopted by the Public Utilities Commission.

"This decision adopts new regulations to enhance the fire safety of overhead electric power lines and communication lines located in high fire-threat areas," PUC staffers wrote in a proposal that was approved by the PUC.

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