

TDEM Wildfire Risk Area Determination

Per Texas Utilities Code § 38.080, a “Wildfire Risk Area” for an electric utility is defined as a geographic location determined by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) or by the utility.

Per TDEM, under Texas Utilities Code § 38.080, a Wildfire Risk Area is determined as having an elevated risk of wildfire that could be ignited by or could threaten electrical infrastructure by meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- 1. TxWRAP Exposure Pathway (Scale-Based):** The area is identified using the Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP) (<https://www.texaswildfirerisk.com>), utilizing the Wildfire Exposure Score, which combines two principal components:
 - Burn Probability – the likelihood of wildfire occurrence.
 - Damage Potential – the potential loss or impact to structures and assets from wildfire.

An area satisfies this condition if any portion of its defined boundary is within a county that in the immediately preceding 12 months has, on any day for which data is available, had a Wildfire Exposure Score ≥ 3.0 (Moderate Exposure) on the 0–10 TxWRAP scale.

- 2. Recent State Wildfire–Related Disaster Declaration:** The county in which the electric utility asset is located has, within the immediately preceding 24 months, been included in a state disaster declaration issued by the Governor in which wildfire or fire hazard is identified as a condition or threat.
- 3. Recent Request for State Wildfire Assistance:** The county in which the electric utility asset is located has, within the immediately preceding 36 months, requested state assistance in responding to a wildfire, including a request made through TDEM or the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Recommended Revision & Evaluation Cycle

TDEM should review and, if needed, revise the Wildfire Risk Area determination at least once a year. TDEM’s review/revision should preferably be completed by January 31st in order to be 90 days ahead of the utilities’ PUC annual implementation report submittal deadline of May 1st, thereby allowing utilities to flag any upcoming modifications to their plan in that report in case TDEM makes any revisions to the determination. A utility should review TDEM Wildfire Risk Area determination annually, preferably ahead of its PUC annual implementation report submittal, or when significant vegetation or infrastructure changes occur, or there is a material change to its plan.