



MORGAN COUNTY REA WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

OBJECTIVE

Wildfires have become a serious threat to Colorado, not only the mountain ranges, but here on the plains as well. Warmer temperatures, prolonged drought, and high winds create dangerous conditions for fires. Therefore, Morgan County REA has implemented a wildfire mitigation plan, designed to greatly reduce the chance of wildfires in our area.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Inspection & Maintenance: Our team conducts routine inspections and maintenance throughout our system. This includes scheduled line patrols, regular substation inspections, and pole testing across our territory. Any identified issues are prioritized and repaired as soon as possible.

Vegetation Management: We work closely with our contractors to manage vegetation near our lines. If a tree or other vegetation is within 10 feet of our lines and equipment, we will trim it to prevent contact with energized lines. If you see a vegetation hazard, please notify MCREA immediately and we will trim it, free of charge.

System Hardening: MCREA works to reduce risk through improvements to our infrastructure. These efforts include:

- adjusting pole spacing and line design to reduce conductors clashing during high winds
- upgrading conductors
- implementing wildlife protections and deterrent systems
- constructing underground power lines where feasible

Protection & Monitoring:

Reclosers

Reclosers are advanced circuit breakers that prevent outages when there is line interference. These work by quickly opening to clear electrical faults, then automatically closing to restore power. Based on the conditions, we can adjust the settings of these devices to reduce wildfire risk.

SCADA

We utilize Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) software to monitor and maintain our system remotely. Using SCADA, we can quickly activate safety settings. SCADA also helps us to pinpoint issues along our lines, greatly assisting in outage response and restoration.

RISK MITIGATION PROTOCOLS - RMPS

When are Risk Mitigation Protocols activated? Morgan County REA may activate RMPs based on:

- Red Flag Warnings from the National Weather Service
- forecasted or sustained high winds
- low humidity
- fuel conditions and drought indicators
- real-time field observations
- system operating conditions

What are Risk Mitigation Protocols? Morgan County REA's RMPs can include one or more of the following:

Modified Protection Settings

Reclosers are set to "non-reclose" or "one-shot" mode. If tripped, they will remain open and power will be cut off for that entire section of line. We will not re-energize that section until our team has been able to visually inspect it. When necessary, power lines may be de-energized for public safety.

Work Practices

Our team increases inspections and system monitoring. *Non-essential* work on energized power lines is delayed, and personnel and equipment are strategically staged across our territory. Safety remains MCREA's top priority, and crews are careful while navigating terrain with our vehicles and equipment.

Enhanced Communications

MCREA closely monitors local emergency communications, in addition to outage reports from our members. In some emergencies, power needs to be shut off for first responders to work safely, and staying in the loop helps MCREA to dispatch linemen as fast as possible to those locations.

Under RMPs, outages may be longer and more frequent. MCREA appreciates our members' understanding as we work to deliver safe, reliable power—while also safeguarding the communities we call home.