Replanting for Recovery

Drought and bark beetle damage remediation
The US Forest Service cites that 102 million trees have died on 7.7 million acres of California’s forests from drought and bark beetle infestation since 2010. As a result, thousands of trees have been removed by homeowners, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and others. This has been done to reduce fire hazard, promote safety and to reduce the risk of damage to property and electric lines.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company offers these planting safety tips to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the electric system and the delivery of affordable, reliable power to our customers.

Select the Right Tree for the Right Place
Near distribution lines, plant only small trees – trees that will grow no taller than 25 feet at maturity. Near high voltage lines, plant only low growing shrubs under the wire zone. Along the border of the of the right-of-way, plant only small trees or shrubs no taller than 10 feet.

Call Before You Dig!
To ensure that you remain safe when doing any digging projects, always call 811 first. 811 is a free service managed by Underground Service Alert and available to everyone. After you call, Underground Service Alert will contact PG&E and other companies that have underground lines in your area. Representatives will then mark the location of their underground lines so you can avoid them and dig safely.

For Safety, What to Avoid:
1. Planting trees or vegetation that are incompatible for the location.
2. Planting closer than 10 feet to the base of utility poles and allowing vegetation up 8 feet from ground level.
3. Blocking vision at roadway corners. Plant at least 10 feet from roadways at corners.
4. Planting too close to sidewalks, streets or driveways.
5. Planting closer than 8 feet to the front and two feet to the sides of pad-mounted transformers.
Tree and plant selection

PG&E’s planting guides to help you Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

To request a free copy of any of the publications below, email a request to RightTreeRightPlace@pge.com or call 1-800-743-5000. Please indicate which guide, how many copies are needed and include your mailing address.

Small Tree Guides for California Regions
Selection and Planting Guides to Small Trees near Distribution Lines

Power-Wise Tree Guide
A Selection and Planting Guide to Power-Wise Tree Planting for California

Planting Guide for Transmission Corridors
A Guide to Landscaping for Pollinators and Wildlife Within and along Electric Transmission Corridors

SelecTree — A tree selection guide
SelecTree is a database of more than 1,400 different trees with search criteria. Through this site you can search by tree attribute, which allows you to choose the Right Tree for The Right Place. They also have a page dedicated to Utility Precautions. This website www.selectree.calpoly.edu will help facilitate appropriate tree selections for your area and suitable to plant near distribution power lines. Look for this symbol:

Near transmission lines, only low growing shrubs or grasses meet required clearance distances.