



A GRID FORWARD SYMPOSIUM

Standing Up to Wildfire

Practical Tech and Tactics for Utilities

Utilities play a central role in mitigating the risks and impacts of wildfires, working alongside regulators, policymakers, technology providers and other organizations. Join the Grid Forward community to explore the evolving tools, strategies, and policies making a tangible difference for power providers and the communities they serve.

June 4, 2025 | 9:30AM - 4:00PM
Amaterra | Portland, OR

Lead Sponsors:



Preliminary Agenda

[Register Today](#)



A 360° View of Grid-Focused Wildfire Strategy

Protecting the grid from wildfire risk involves a dedicated set of experts across many organizations: utilities working closely with local, state and federal offices as well as innovative tech solution providers. This event will give all attendees insight into how to work together to make grid infrastructure and communities safer and more resilient.

The Key Players Working Together

This symposium addresses the critical needs and responsibilities of keeping the power on safely in today's wildfire reality. It will be a unique opportunity for the whole energy ecosystem to build knowledge and connections.

- **State regulators** - NARUC attendees encouraged
- **Utility teams** working on wildfire planning, mitigation, management, communications and follow-up
- **Policy makers** working to help utilities adapt quickly
- **Technology solution providers**
- **Community first responders and organizers**

Multiple Ways to Engage and Share

With several types of sessions, this symposium will give each attendee the chance to receive and share practical information to advance wildfire initiatives.

- **Panels** on wildfire mitigation, utility planning, regulatory policies and more
- **Small-group huddle discussions** on new technology and approaches
- **Case studies** of applied solutions and practices working today in the field
- **Networking** with experts at the front lines of wildfire risk mitigation



“ Wildfire is a societal issue that demands societal solutions. Grid Forward’s gatherings are opportunities to build relationships, form partnerships, learn and advance important work.”

Maria Pope, President & CEO, Portland General Electric



Wildfire Symposium Agenda

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

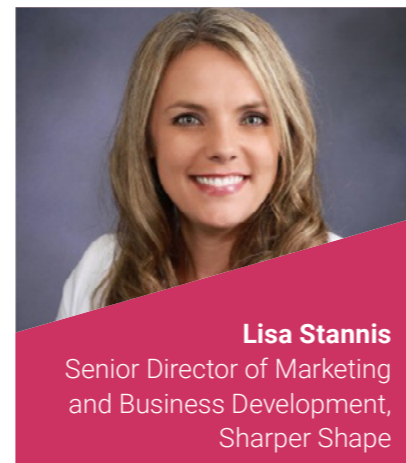
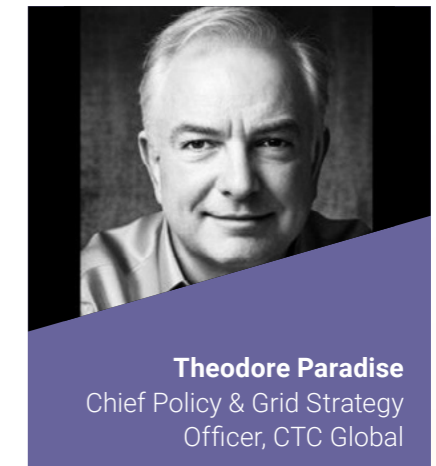
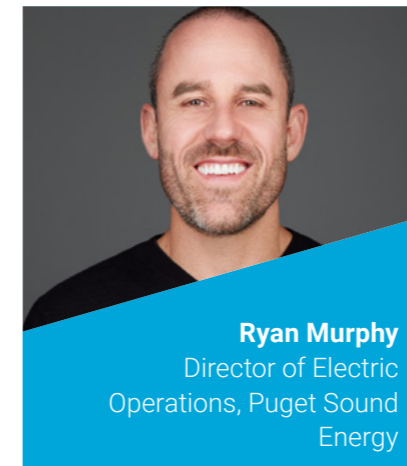
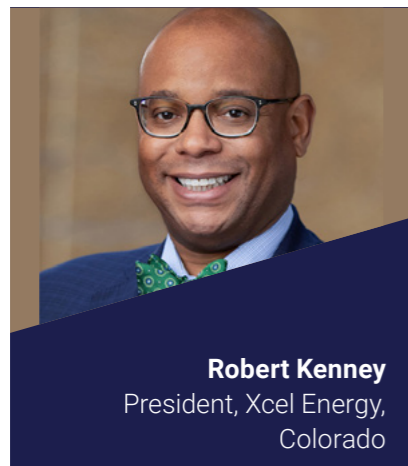
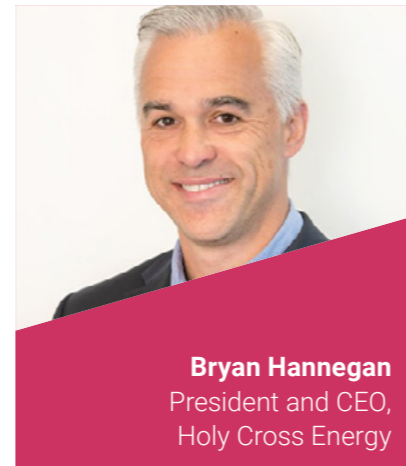
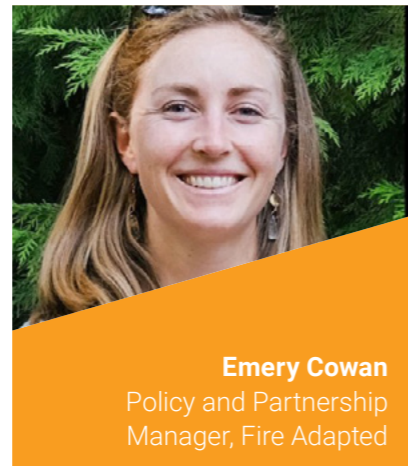
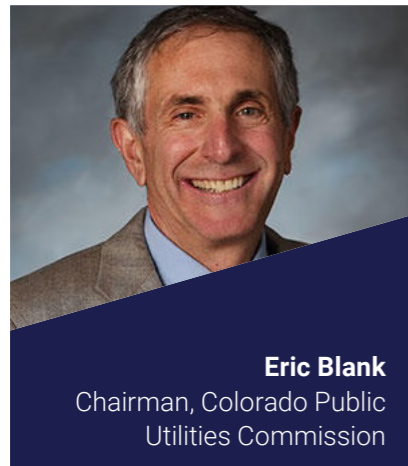
9:00 AM	Registration and Coffee
9:30 AM	OPENING PLENARY: Standing Up a Coordinated Front to Reduce Wildfire Risk and Losses <i>Dave Winnacker</i> , Fire Chief (ret) Policy Advisor, Western Fire Chiefs Association <i>Bryan Hannegan</i> , President and CEO, Holy Cross Energy
10:15 AM	PANEL: Utility Planning and Implementation of Wildfire Plans <i>Bob Rowe</i> , Retired CEO, NorthWestern Energy; Executive Advisor, Technosylva <i>Kellie Cloud</i> , Senior Director, Wildfire & Operational Compliance, PGE <i>Jay Leyno</i> , Director, Wildfire Mitigation PMO, PG&E <i>David Bayard</i> , Manager, Wildfire Risk Management, Puget Sound Energy
10:15 AM	CASE STUDY: Data-Driven Resilience: How Inland Power Reduced Wildfire Risk <i>Phil Chen</i> , Solutions Consultant, Overstory <i>Patrick Larsen</i> , Vegetation and Utility Inspection Manager, Inland Power
10:15 AM	CASE STUDY: Don't Get Burned: Know your Risk to Build a Better Plan <i>Jeannine Parisi</i> , Resiliency Program Manager, EWEB <i>Chris Moran</i> , Director, Fire Science, Pyrologix
11:00 AM	SMALL-GROUP HUDDLE DISCUSSIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensing and Early Detection <i>Stephen Maisonet</i>, Sales Director-US, OroraTech, <i>Ben Hanson</i>, Vice President, North America Sales, Pano Quantifying Value of Resilience Investments <i>Kyra Howe</i>, Utility Analyst, Hawaii PUC, <i>Mishal Thadani</i>, CEO, Rhizome Efficient Capital Expenditure for Response and Rebuilding <i>Bret Simon</i>, Utilites Vertical Leader, Exodigo Bridging Community and Utility Wildfire Efforts <i>Emery Cowan</i>, Policy and Partnership Manager, Fire Adapted Communities <i>Nick Russell</i>, VP of Operations, Watch Duty, Watch Duty Insurance and Alternative Risk Financing <i>Matthew Dwyer</i>, Director, Corporate Risk Management, Edison International
11:45 AM	Lunch + Networking + Demos
1:00 PM	PANEL: Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Wildfire Resilience <i>Melissa Semcer</i> , Chief Strategist & Principal Consultant, Climate, Wildfire and Energy Strategies, LLC, <i>Riaz Mohammed</i> , Wildfire Regulatory Policy Specialist, Xcel Energy, <i>Ann Rendahl</i> , Commissioner, Washington UTC, <i>Caroline Thomas Jacobs</i> , Director, California Office of Energy Infrastructure and Safety



Join Grid Forward Social June 3 Attendees are encouraged to join the Grid Forward members at a social reception on June 3 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM at the same location, Amaterra Winery.

1:00 PM	CASE STUDY: Mitigating Wildfire with Transmission: Reducing Risk with Carbon Core Conductors <i>Randy Pinocci</i> , Commissioner, Montana PSC <i>Theodore Paradise</i> , Chief Policy & Grid Strategy Officer, CTC Global
1:00 PM	CASE STUDY: Did the Short Cause the Wildfire or Did the Wildfire Cause the Short? <i>Michael Craig</i> , Manager, Energy Management Systems, Great River Energy <i>Tiffany Menhorn</i> , Head of Utilites, North America, Prisma Photonics
1:45 PM	SMALL-GROUP HUDDLE DISCUSSIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering Communities in Wildfire Mitigation Planning <i>Elizabeth "Eli" King</i>, Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Director, Washington DOC, <i>Gilberto DeSalvo</i>, Founder and CEO, Delphire A Holistic Approach to Vegetation Management <i>Lisa Stannis</i>, Senior Director of Marketing and Business Development, Sharper Shape Grid Hardening: Where, When and How Much <i>Davoud Zamani</i>, CEO & Co-Founder, GridWrap, <i>Rafael Fernandez</i>, Account Manager, Esri Tech and Tactics for Small/Medium Utilities <i>Ryan Murphy</i>, Director of Electric Operations, Puget Sound Energy Insurance and Alternative Risk Financing <i>Matthew Dwyer</i>, Director, Corporate Risk Management, Edison International
2:30 PM	Break + Networking + Demos
2:50 PM	CASE STUDY: Resilient Structures <i>John Higgins</i> , CEO, Resilient Structures
2:50 PM	FIRESIDE CHAT: AI, Automation, and Predictive Analytics for Wildfire Mitigation <i>Randy Lyle</i> , Founder and Principal, Wildfire Mitigation Strategies <i>Lisa Stannis</i> , Senior Director of Marketing and Business Development, Sharper Shape <i>Ben Hanson</i> , Vice President, North America Sales, Pano
3:10 PM	PANEL: Prioritization and Moving Forward with Wildfire Mitigation <i>Eric Blank</i> , Chairman, Colorado PUC, <i>Robert Kenney</i> , President, Xcel Energy, Allen Berreth, Vice President of Power Delivery Operations, PacifiCorp, <i>Nisha Menon</i> , Wildfire Mitigation Program Strategy Manager, SDG&E
3:50 PM	Closing Plenary <i>Bryce Yonker</i> , Executive Director and CEO, Grid Forward, and guests

Meet These Confirmed Speakers and Discussion Leaders



**Grid Forward events
regularly sell out.
Register today to
reserve your spot.**

Register Now

More Wildfire Symposium Speakers and Discussion Leaders

David Bayard, Manager, Wildfire Risk Management, Puget Sound Energy

Allen Bereth, Vice President of Power Delivery Operations, PacifiCorp

Phil Chen, Solutions Consultant, Overstory

Kellie Cloud, Senior Director, Wildfire & Operational Compliance, Portland General Electric (PGE)

Michael Craig, Manager, Energy Management Systems, Great River Energy

Gilberto DeSalvo, Founder & CEO, Delphire

Matthew Dwyer, Director, Corporate Risk Management, Edison International

Rafael Fernandez, Account Manager, Esri

Ben Hanson, Vice President, North America Sales, Pano

John Higgins, CEO, Resilient Structures

Kyra Howe, Utility Analyst, Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Elizabeth "Eli" King, Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Director, Washington Department of Commerce

Patrick Larsen, Vegetation and Utility Inspection Manager, Inland Power

Stephen Maisonet, Sales Director-US, Orora Tech

Nisha Menon, Wildfire Mitigation Program Strategy Manager, SDG&E

Riaz Mohammed, Wildfire Regulatory Policy Specialist, Xcel Energy

Chris Moran, Director, Fire Science, Pyrologix

Jeannine Parisi, Resiliency Program Manager, EWEB

Bob Rowe, Retired CEO, NorthWestern Energy; Executive Advisor, Technosylva

Nick Russel, VP of Operations, Watch Duty

Melissa Semcer, Chief Strategist & Principal Consultant, Climate, Wildfire and Energy Strategies, LLC

Bret Simon, Utilities Vertical Leader, Exodigo

Mishal Thadani, CEO, Rhizome

Andrew Trombley, Community Wildfire Safety Plan-Program Manager, PG&E

Davoud Zamani, CEO, GridWrap

Thanks to These Organizations for Supporting the Symposium

LEAD SPONSORS



CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS



“ Our nation is facing enormous challenges to the reliability and affordability of the electrical grid due to the impacts of wildfire. The risk of wildfires to the grid impacts a utility’s ability to deploy capital that improves its system, to maintain insurance, to understand risk and liability and more. This all creates added pressures on affordability and reliability that directly impact customers. The **Standing Up to Wildfire Symposium** will bring together the many stakeholders needed to advance solutions for reducing wildfire risks and costs to our utilities and communities.”

Ann Rendahl

Commissioner, Washington
Utilities and Trade Commission



Be sure to talk to our sponsors at their booths during lunch and breaks.

SYMPOSIUM:

Standing Up to Wildfire

June 4, 2025, 10AM - 5PM

Amaterra | Portland, OR



The Standing Up to Wildfire Symposium will take place at the Amaterra Winery in the west hills of Portland, just a 10-minute drive from downtown. This spacious facility provides inspiring views, comfortable meeting spaces and an ideal setting for collaboration on advancing wildfire issues.



Get Special Rates at the Nearby AC Marriott

Attendees can request discount rates at the AC Marriott in Beaverton, a short drive from Amaterra by [clicking this link](#).

Adjacent to NARUC WCPSC and our 2025 Annual Members Meeting

- ▶ **NARUC Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners**
June 1-4, 2025 | Hilton Downtown Portland
- ▶ **Grid Forward 2025 Annual Members Meeting**
Evening of June 3, 2025 | Amaterra Winery

Register Today for Standing Up to Wildfire

Register



Grid Forward is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, member-driven trade association dedicated to promoting and accelerating innovation on the regional electric system. We deliver community, expertise and resources for leaders who are working to modernize the grid. Learn more and become a member at [GridForward.org](#).

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