



# Labor Day Wind Storm

## Challenges and Lessons Learned



The graphic is a weather warning poster. The top left features a red warning sign with an exclamation mark. Below it, a red banner reads "Red Flag Warning" and "Monday 11AM – Wednesday 8PM". The background shows a field of tall grass under a cloudy sky. The bottom left has logos for NOAA and the National Weather Service, with the text "Issued: 2pm 9/6/2020".

**Red Flag Warning**  
All of NW Oregon & SW Washington  
Relative Humidity below **15%** &  
**strong easterly winds**

**High Wind Warning**  
N. Oregon Coast & Coast Range  
**15-25<sup>MPH</sup> Gusts up to 45<sup>MPH</sup>**  
Gusts up to **60<sup>MPH</sup>** possible on higher terrain

N. Oregon/S. Washington Cascades & Foothills  
**20-35<sup>MPH</sup> Gusts up to 50<sup>MPH</sup>**  
Gusts up to **75<sup>MPH</sup>** possible on higher exposed terrain

Use caution with potential ignition sources, especially in grassy areas. Outdoor burning is not recommended.

**“Extreme winds never before seen this early in autumn are expected to hit northwest Oregon beginning Monday afternoon and getting more intense into the evening and during the day on Tuesday, with a mellowing period taking place Wednesday.”**

*Salem Statesman Journal 9.7.2020*



## Implementation of the Plan

### Pre-Wind Event:

- Mitigation Team determined we would establish protective measures for our entire system due to predicted conditions
- Updated website and key customers of possible increased system interruptions
- Contacted BPA and requested CPI's transmission lines be placed on non-reclose prior to holiday weekend
- Established staffing schedule to monitor system and response
- Placed the entire system on non-reclose prior to the start of the Red Flag Warning

### During Event:

- Experienced alarms system wide
- Determined we couldn't effectively monitor system per plan
- Implemented increased system controls resulting in large scale outages
- Resolved to concentrate on remaining system and leave fire area de-energized
- Delayed restoration due to risk factors and circuit patrols on remaining system

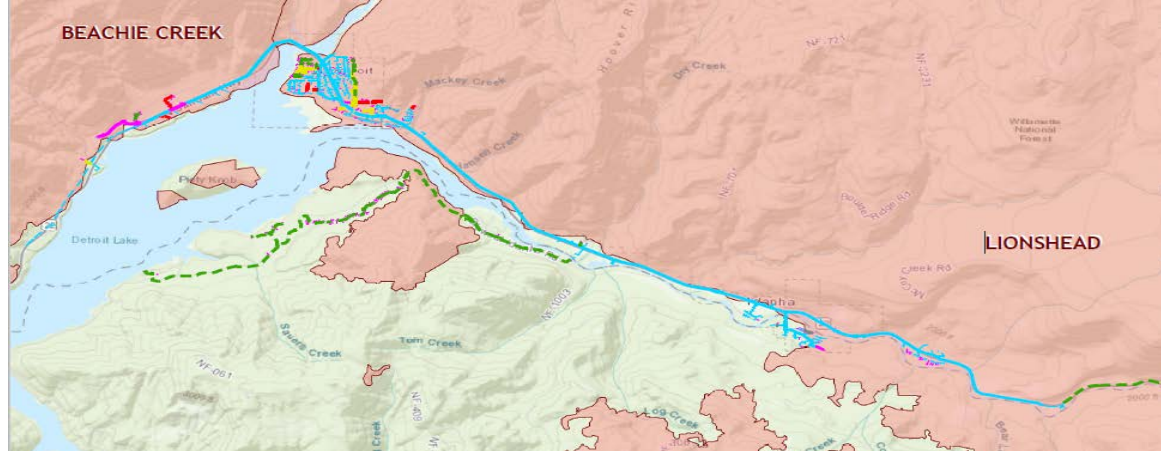
### Post Event:

- Continued Fire Mitigation Plan multiple days after red flag warnings expired
- System in the fire damaged area continues to operate at mitigation levels

## Challenges

### Communication:

- Not aware of severity of fire and location
- Working with two fire commands
- Lack of continuity between both fire commands and work procedures
- Need for liaison in both fire command centers
- Determining ownership of assets and service territories with multiple power utilities in the area
- No contact with field personnel until critical infrastructure restored



## Challenges

### Restoration:

- Not allowed to enter fire area for assessment
- Fire command requesting power to remain out
- Establishing power to critical infrastructure
- Four daily briefing/update meetings
- Different TFR's for each fire command
- Mutual Aid and Competing Resources
- Tree Removal
- Damage sustained from contractors on replaced assets

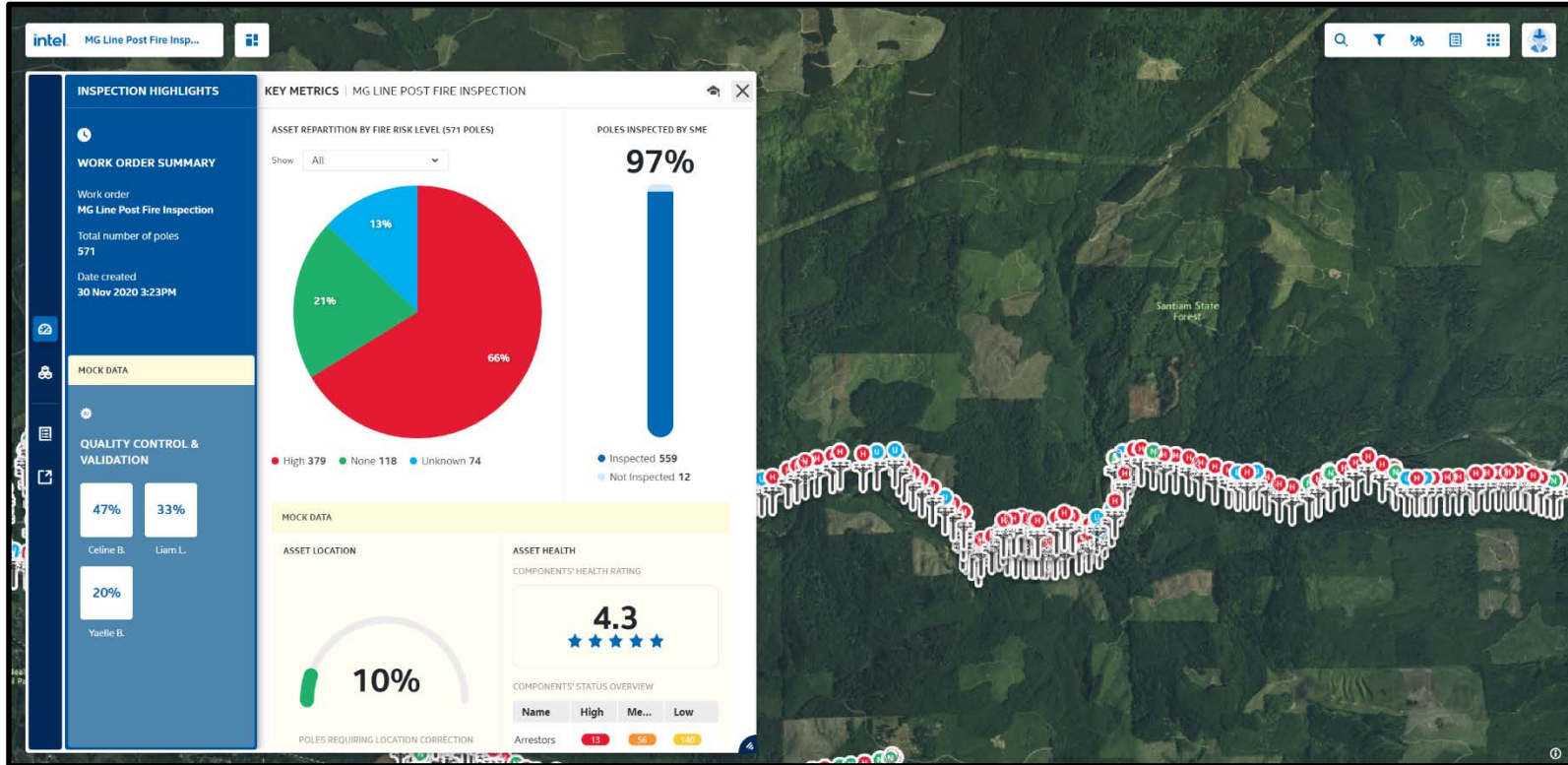




# Recovery

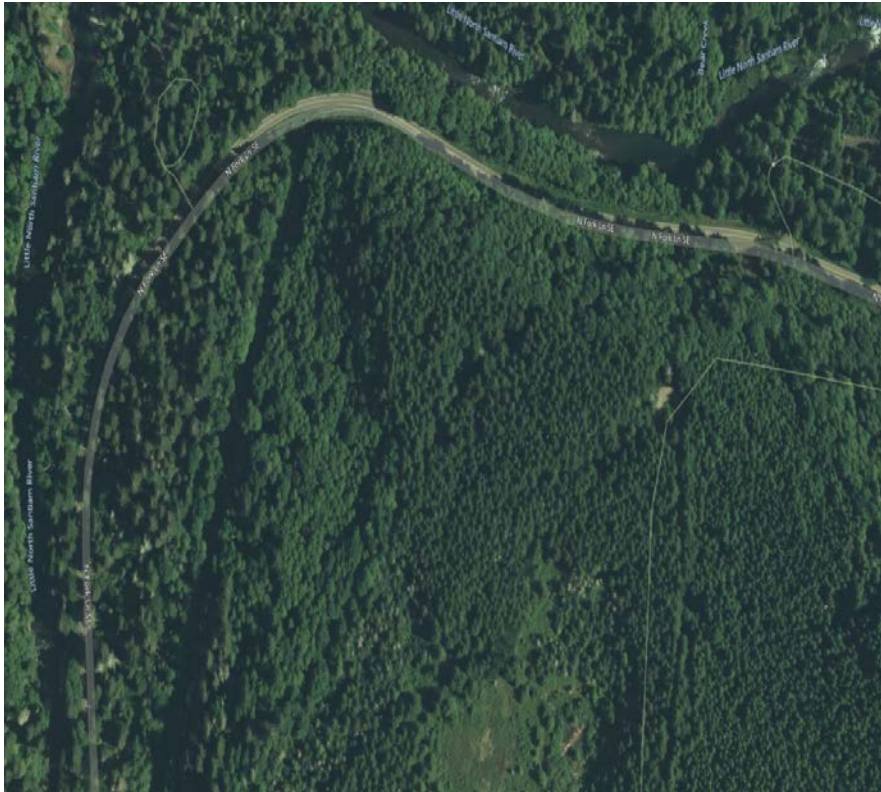
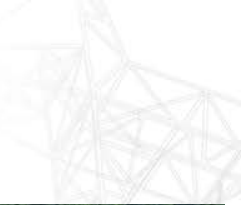


# Damage Assessments





# Tree Removal





## Restoration

- 876 Poles remaining to replace
- 39 miles of overhead conductor to replace
- Establish temporary power to rebuild communities
- Work with FEMA to harden system and selectively install UG during repair process
- Continue tree removal
- Expand system protection for better control
- Capitalize on future project funding possibilities



“Luck tends to favor those  
who are prepared.”

*Roman Gillen, CEO/President CPI*

## Lessons Learned

- Personnel required to implement and manage mitigation plan during a system wide event
- Importance of dedicated liaisons in Emergency Command Centers
- Mutual Aid Contracts beyond the normal scope of storm restoration
- Oregon can experience Mega Fires much like what we see in California
- Local control establishing protection system wide not based off a risk matrix