

PIEDMONT STATES WILDFIRE WORKSHOP

The CODE Building, 225 W Water St.

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

7:30–8:30 a.m. **Check-in**

8:30–8:45 a.m.

Welcome

Andrés Clarens, UVA EI | Rebecca O’Neil, PNNL

Opening Remarks

Deputy Assistant Secretary Victoria Tran, Office of Electricity

8:45–9:15 a.m.

KEYNOTE:

Current State of Wildfire Risk and Coordination Efforts in the Region

John Miller, VA Department of Forestry

9:15–10:15 a.m.

State of Wildfire: Data, History, and Practice

Jerry Tagestad, PNNL | Huilin Huang, UVA
Seth Blair, Utility Arborist Association & Eocene
Environmental Group

Moderator: Matt Kelly, ICF

10:15–10:30 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30–11:30 a.m.

How Does Wildfire Affect Energy Systems?

Payman Dehghanian, GWU | Negin Alemazkoo, UVA
Steve Parr, Gridware

Moderator: Shane Hester, CESER

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Western States and Wildfire

Mark Wenzel, CA Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
Johanna Hanson, WA Department of Commerce
Moderator: Tom Allen, SC Office of Regulatory Staff

12:15–1:30 p.m.

LUNCH KEYNOTE:

Current Best Practices on Wildfire Risk Reduction for Electric Transmission and Distribution Systems & Executive Order 14308

André Coleman, PNNL | Patrick Blake, Office of Electricity

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Utility Wildfire Mitigation Planning

Aggie Serrame, APPA | Adam Johnson, Duke Energy
Justin Cruise, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

Moderator: André Coleman, PNNL

2:30–3:30 p.m.

Coordination and Wildfire Response

George Stephens, North Garden (VA) Volunteer Fire
Company | Michelle Rose, FEMA | Alan Fitzpatrick, Portland
(OR) Fire & Rescue | Jason Romlein, SC Emergency
Management Division

Moderator: Michael Abraham, PNNL

3:30–3:45 p.m. **BREAK**

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Next Steps: How Do We Work Together Going Forward

Josephus Allmond, State of Virginia | Tyler Swearingen,
Dominion Energy | Darryl Jones, SC Forestry Commission
Moderator: Ashton Raffety, Argonne National Laboratory

4:45–5:00 p.m.

Day 1 Closing Remarks

5:00 p.m.

U.S. DOE and States Meeting (off-site)

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DAY 2 – THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

7:30–8:30 a.m. **Check-in**

8:30–9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Discussion

Anne Egger, Office of Electricity
Forest Kaser, CA Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

9:00–10:00 a.m.

State Energy Perspectives on Wildfire Trends

Will Myers, VA Department of Energy
Joel Porter, NC Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Allen, SC Office of Regulatory Staff
Ben Bolton, TN Department of Environment
and Conservation

Moderator: Jonah Fogel, UVA EI

10:00–10:45 a.m.

How Wildfire Affects Energy Affordability

Anna Marie Will, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Rebecca O’Neil, PNNL

Moderator: Campbell Delahoyde, NASEO

10:45–11:00 a.m. **BREAK**

11:00–11:40 a.m.

Electrical Aspects of Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Investigations

A conversation on key takeaways from wildland fire
origin and cause investigations involving electric utility
infrastructure to inform East Coast response.

Michael Abraham, PNNL

11:40 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Hot Takes and Afternoon Preview, Survey and Photo

12:00–1:00 p.m. **LUNCH**

Omni Charlottesville Hotel

1:00–2:15 p.m.

Wildfire Resilience Throughout Event Life Cycle (OMNI Hotel)

An interactive session for a wildfire resiliency
framework, including metrics and tools, for pre-
peri- and post-wildfire event mitigation planning.

André Coleman, PNNL

2:15–2:30 p.m. **BREAK**

2:30–4:30 p.m.

Tabletop Exercise: Mission FLARE (OMNI Hotel)

An interactive, scenario-based discussion to
identify resources and capabilities, facilitate pre-
disaster relationship building, and foster operational
coordination across public and private entities.

Sunny Wescott, Geospatial Intelligence ISAC
Sarah Easton (Seaston), Project ARMOR
CESER | DoW

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