



Wildfire Mitigation Annual Report

Capital Electric Cooperative

Submitted: 6/26/2026

Executive Summary

Capital Electric Cooperative (Capital) completed the 2025-2026 season with a continued strong tradition of progressive maintenance and inspection activities, along with diligent situational awareness to effectively mitigate the effects of wildfires in Capital's service territory. A full year of abiding by Capital's wildfire mitigation plan has increased mindfulness of fire hazards and renewed the commitment to ongoing vigilance. Capital's involvement with fire incidents has been prompt and professional.

Introduction

Capital implemented a wildfire mitigation plan effective 6/27/2025 and has prepared this report to document compliance with the objectives stated in that plan. These efforts include ongoing annual preventative maintenance activities, construction of rebuilt overhead or underground line conversions, and coordination exercises. Additional steps have been taken to reduce risks on days with heightened fire risks.

Preventative Maintenance

The initial activities listed in Section 3 of Capital's wildfire mitigation plan focus on the addressing infrastructure in a preventative, planned manner. Below is a summary of the activities performed in each of these tasks:

- a. Routine inspections continue to be performed as a course of daily activities. Items such as debris caught in overhead lines are noted and addressed.
- b. Annual inspections of one-half of Capital's service territory in the winter of 2026 resulted in 74 service orders being created after identifying items needing attention. The most common items noted were wire frays and missing or broken hardware.
- c. Vegetation management inspections were also performed during this timeframe, resulting in 101 service orders created for tree trimming. Contractors were mobilized in early 2026 to trim most of these noted areas, with Capital's crews taking care of the remainder.
- d. Pole testing was completed in 2025 for 2,158 poles, with only 20 poles or 0.93% of those tested being rejected. Priority poles were changed out promptly following completion of the testing.

Construction Activities

- e. Rural rebuilding of 9.7 miles was completed in 2025, with additional work completed as ground thaw allowed in the spring of 2026. All construction

utilized a minimum strength of Class 5 poles and wire size of #2 ACSR, including neutral offset brackets on all line types.

- f. Conversions from overhead lines to underground cable accounted for about 9.8 miles of Capital's construction in 2025. This included an area in south Bismarck (near Briardale along Sibley Drive) where ingress/egress access is limited and is surrounded by significant fire fuel sources (river bottoms growth consisting of tall grass and tree deadfalls). This neighborhood was identified as a high-risk wildfire area within Capital's service territory, and this factor helped decide to convert these lines to underground rather than rebuilding as overhead.

Coordinated Exercises

- g. Sectionalizing equipment for all of Capital's service territory was reviewed in 2025, completing an analysis known as a Sectionalizing Study. This effort evaluated the effectiveness of protective devices on the system (ex. fuses and circuit breakers), with updates to sizes and/or settings of devices to allow for the fastest response with the least impact to consumers. In total, 83 devices were updated because of this study.
- h. Coordination with emergency response agencies became commonplace in this timeframe, with severe summer storms in 2025 resulting in a FEMA damage claim. This exercise refreshed Capital's skills in documenting and submitting damage assessments, as well as contacts with Bismarck and Burleigh County first responders regarding structure and rangeland fires.

Additional Steps During High-Risk Conditions

When conditions elevated to high-risk categories, Capital implemented additional steps to further mitigate potential fire ignition events. This included having water cans ready on each truck, patrol of all line segments before attempting a reclose, and having a fire watch designated when jobs had to be completed. Contractors were made aware in days of high risk, ensuring they had the same precautions ready as Capital's crews had. Efforts are ongoing to bring more situational awareness measures to the forefront, including visible indicators of Red Flag Warning conditions into the control room.

Fire Notes

In the 2025-2026 timeframe, Capital has documented 11 events where fires were reported in vicinity to Capital's equipment. All events were quickly contained by local first responders.

- Three events were structure fires, where Capital was called by the responding fire department to disconnect power to the structure.
- Seven events were associated with Capital's overhead lines, of which three were attributed to animal contacts as the cause of the fires. Burnt jumpers was the common theme in the remainder of this group.
- One event summarized the duration of several severe summer storms where members reported arcing and sparks during the storm but did not result in an outage nor a fire.

Summary

Capital took care to implement the steps outlined in its Wildfire Mitigation Plan, completing the season with minimal impact on the consumer base. Continued exercise of this plan, along with implementation of evolving industry best practices will position Capital to monitor and address the risks of wildfires in its service territory.

Respectfully Submitted



Greg Owen, Manager of Engineering Services