



Segment of TE/VS transmission line FERC Staff alternative

Approximate 300 feet "hands-off" zone described by Californian

Fire: 11/06/2006



Ground view of 11/06/2006

Fire: 10/24/07 Suppressed by aircraft



Fire fighting aircraft used against 10/24/07 fire in Wildomar

The Californian Official says power line poses fire risk for all, The Californian 4/7/02 <http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2002/04/08/export6806.txt>
 Quotes from article:
 "The Cleveland National Forest has the highest number of wildland firefighting casualties of any national forest in the United States,"
 "Firefighters cannot work under lines if the power running through them has not been shut down, he said. Often there is a delay between the time firefighters arrive on a fire line and the time it takes a utility company to shut off the power to transmission lines. In heavy smoke, charged power lines can cause an electrical arc, which shoots to the ground like a lightning bolt, possibly electrocuting anyone standing beneath the lines, he said."
 "In a brush fire, California forestry firefighters are required to stay 300 feet away from the area under transmission lines, he said. Transmission lines also present unacceptable risks for firefighting aircraft, Schott said, adding to delays in fighting a blaze."
 "Waiting until the blaze has gotten past the power lines means losing precious minutes. And when fighting a fire, time is of the essence, said Fire Capt. Dan Schott of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention station in Lake Elsinore."

This fire threatening homes in Wildomar and Lakeland village was quickly suppressed by firefighting aircraft, an option that would be greatly limited in the presence of the proposed Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano high-voltage transmission line.



Ground view of 10/24/07 fire



Left: Oct 07 fire seen from Palomar road. The smoke path crosses over the Woodmoor and Regency housing tracts in Wildomar.
Above: Oct 07 fire viewed from housing Regency housing tract at 12:18 pm.
Right: Oct 07 fire from Regency at 12:19 pm. Note that the smoke plume shows a rapidly shifting wind direction.