



RECURRING CALIFORNIA BLACKOUTS: Buried Utility and Transmission Lines Reduce the Risk of Wildfires and Eliminate Imposed Blackouts

Six of the 10 most destructive fires in California were started by electrical equipment, according to CNBC. Recent fires in California have elevated the situation, and the utility company is mandating 10 years of intermittent blackouts across the state.

Ten years of intermittent blackouts will have disastrous effects on business and the state's economy, not to mention dangerous implications to public health and safety within the healthcare system and infrastructure like traffic. Californians will be forced to navigate daily lives without power or hope of a quick solution. With taxpayers also on the hook for billions of dollars of wildfire damage, there's a better, safer solution utilizing buried fiberglass conduit.

To keep customers safe from wildfires and free from disruption, California utility companies should bury high-voltage cable in high-risk areas such as canyons and densely populated areas susceptible to fire.



SIZE	TYPE	NOMINAL				NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS (IN)	NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS (MM)
		OD (IN)	OD (MM)	MIN ID (IN)	MIN ID (MM)		
2"	XW	2.500"	64	2.000"	51	.25"	6
2-1/2"	XW	3.000"	76	2.500"	64	.25"	6
3"	XW	3.500"	89	3.000"	76	.25"	6
3-1/2"	XW	4.000"	102	3.500"	89	.25"	6
4"	XW	4.500"	114	4.000"	102	.25"	6
5"	XW	5.500"	140	5.000"	127	.25"	6
6"	XW	6.500"	165	6.000"	152	.25"	6
8"	XW	8.900"	226	8.400"	213	.25"	6

Encasing high-voltage transmission lines underground in Champion Fiberglass conduit will minimize disruptions to the economy and public health and safety, as well as the daily headaches and inconveniences blackouts would cause Californians.

Direct buried fiberglass conduit is the obvious solution to this serious public safety and economic issue. PVC conduit and steel conduit are not suitable options for high-voltage cable installations. Here's why:

- Fiberglass conduit with a wall thickness of 0.25" can carry high-voltage transmission lines of 125KV and higher with a thicker-wall custom solution.
- Fiberglass conduit will not melt like PVC conduit nor weld to the side like steel conduit under cable faults. The damaged cable can easily be pulled out and new cable can be installed without removing the fiberglass conduit.
- The lower coefficient of friction for fiberglass conduit allows for much longer pulls and a longer distance between pull boxes/vaults in contrast to PVC conduit and steel conduit.

To find out more about an underground conduit solution that safeguards transmission lines and customers and minimizes disruption, contact Champion Fiberglass today.

A safe solution for underground utility environments, fiberglass conduit offers:

• Dielectric Strength

Champion Fiberglass conduit has a dielectric strength of 550 volts with our XW wall thickness of 0.25" and can carry transmission lines up to 125 KV (or more if wall thickness is increased).

• Low Coefficient of Friction

Consistently one of the lowest coefficient of friction numbers of any conduit system. This allows for far fewer pull boxes in long runs.

• Not Affected by Cable Faults

Will not melt like PVC conduit or weld to the side like steel conduit.

• Rodent, Insect and Pest Resistant

Protects against the physical attacks of rodents, insects and other pests.

• UL Listed

UL 2515 and 2515A for above ground and UL 2420 for below ground.

• UV Stable

Maintains mechanical/physical properties when exposed to the damaging UV sunlight.

• Light Weight

Comparison of 4" conduit types:
2.38 lbs per ft – XW Fiberglass
10.0 lbs per ft – Galvanized Rigid Steel
10.3 lbs per ft – PVC-coated Steel

• Cost-Effective

Material and labor costs are much lower than traditional conduit systems.