

Building a More Reliable Grid: Preventive Maintenance in Action

I am on the distribution asset and program management team and one of my programs is the underground transformer inspection program.

We send trained inspectors out to do a visual inspection on a transformer. An inspector goes out there looking for things like rust holes, signs of oil leaking damage to the cabinet, and they're notating those defects and sending it back to our office so that we can create jobs to send to our local service workers.

By doing the visual inspection, we can see things that indicate that a transformer might fail.

Any vegetation overgrowth can delay efforts in restoring power. So we need to make sure that there are no landscaping stones in front of our transformers. No overgrown bushes growing over our transformers, tree limbs, anything that obstructs our visual view, anything that keeps us from opening the door can ultimately delay restoration efforts.

Our role is important because we are trying to keep our community safe by checking for any hazards ahead of time and also keeping our power reliable by making sure that we're catching any signs of a failure before it happens.