

# CORE Electric Cooperative Proactively addresses Growing Wildfire Threat



## Protecting infrastructure and communities from wildfires

### OVERVIEW

CORE Electric Cooperative services more than 169,000 members over a 5,000–square-mile territory east, west, and south of Denver, Colorado. They are one of the largest electric distribution cooperatives in the United States. Their not-for-profit model enables CORE to continually reinvest in infrastructure and member services. Given the recent growth of major wildfires across the American west, CORE decided to make a strategic investment in wildfire preparedness, monitoring, and detection in order to better protect customers as well as their 51 substations and 10,000+ miles of distribution infrastructure. Partnering with AEM, CORE's risk management team built a wildfire monitoring network that significantly improved operational decision-making.

## Overcoming utility industry challenges

CORE needed to grow a modern approach to wildfire risk assessment and detection from the ground up, since they'd never had major worries about the threat of fires until observing the California wildfires of 2019. After internal reflection and studying what other providers in the west were doing, their operations department determined CORE needed a wildfire monitoring and awareness solution that would:

### 1. CREATE A FIRE AWARENESS COMMAND CENTER

The solution needed to provide a source of truth for wildfire risk assessment and visualization of high-risk areas.

### 2. SIMPLIFY & ACCELERATE FIRE-RELATED COMMUNICATION

CORE needed to send alerts and warnings to a variety of stakeholders, from customers to employees and contractors.

### 3. INFORM OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE OVERALL

The solution needed to help CORE understand their territory better over time to prioritize proactive maintenance.

### UNDERSTANDING THE DISTRIBUTION SPACE

While investor-owned utilities, municipal service providers, and rural cooperatives all share certain core challenges, every distributor also has unique risk management needs dictated by their local geography, climate, and culture.

By partnering with AEM, CORE was able to configure a wildfire risk management and monitoring strategy that was perfectly scaled to their situation, team, and ambitions as an innovative provider managing a large service area.



The ease of working with AEM was very attractive to us... Getting our network up and operational was a very quick process... The way that AEM is working to add additional technologies to their camera network and always looking to bring more things to the table is key for us.

— Pam Feuerstein  
COO  
CORE Electric Cooperative

# The Solution: Wildfire Camera & Weather Network

Working with AEM, CORE carried out a risk assessment of their entire service area and determined the individual facilities and key locations where fires presented the highest potential risk or were most likely. That analysis directly informed the deployment points for weather stations and wildfire cameras that would create a fire risk monitoring and detection network. That network relayed data back to a highly visual software hub to create a 24/7 command center.



## FTS360 SOFTWARE WITH OVERWATCH

FTS360 served as the backbone of CORE's monitoring and detection system, centralizing live camera and weather station data from their service territory and the region as a whole in a digestible, visual manner.



## POINT-TILT-ZOOM CAMERAS & RAWS WEATHER STATIONS

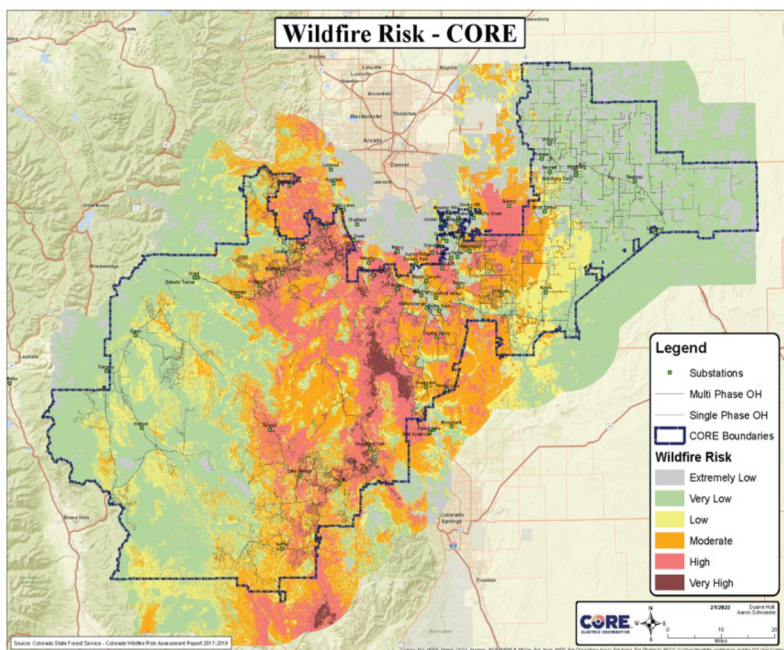
AEM provided all the hardware CORE needed to create their wildfire monitoring network, building a live look into their expansive service territory quickly.



## CUSTOM ALERTS, ALARMS, AND NOTIFICATIONS

Personalized alerts help CORE communicate clearly with their employees, contractors, and members in times of elevated wildfire risk via email or text.

# Visualizing Fire Risk in CORE's Service Area



# Why AEM?

AEM's purpose is to empower communities and organizations to survive – and thrive – in the face of escalating environmental risks. Our vision is to be the world's essential source for environmental insights, enabling decisive action and positive outcomes.

We provide reliable sensing networks and meteorological expertise on demand to connect our customers with the highest quality data that enables actionable insights and optimized decisions. Our customer-centric approach to weather resiliency means we treat every engagement as an opportunity to craft a unique solution that's driven by your challenges and situation.



## 1. NEEDS-BASED WEATHER RESILIENCY

We help you build severe weather, flood, and wildfire risk management solutions that are directly aligned to your needs, goals, and the work you do.

## 2. DEDICATED METEOROLOGY TEAM

Our Earth Networks Meteorological Services Team is on call 24/7/365 to provide you with the forecasting and interpretive guidance you need.

## 3. END-TO-END SOLUTIONS

The AEM family of brands can support all your weather monitoring, risk management, and response coordination needs, from sensors to software.