

# PG&E's Legal Exposure to Liability for Fires Could Cost Customers – Or Lead to Bankruptcy

✘ If Pacific Gas and Electric Company is found liable for the devastating California fires now burning, the company's customers could be on the hook to pay the bill, or even lead to a PG&E bankruptcy, according to *The New York Times*.

"Many fires in recent years have been caused by downed power lines serving California's utilities. State officials have determined that electrical equipment owned by PG&E, including power lines and poles, was responsible for at least 17 of 21 major fires in Northern California last fall. In eight of those cases, they referred the findings to prosecutors over possible violations of state law," write *Times* reporters **Ivan Penn** and **Peter Eavis**.

Some victims of the latest fires **have sued** PG&E, alleging negligence and health and safety code violations by the utility company.

**Read the *NY Times* article.**