

# Woman warned about ‘sparks’ from power lines day before deadly wildfire

By Joe Tacopino

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Betsy Ann Cowley (left)

AP, Getty Images

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A woman in Northern California said Monday that the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. contacted her about “sparks” in power lines on her property one day before [the deadly wildfire in Paradise](#) began.

Betsy Ann Cowley said the power company emailed her on Wednesday and warned that they were “having problems with sparks” and needed access to her property in the small town of Pulga.

On Thursday, the wildfire started near Pulga and incinerated the neighboring town of Paradise.

A total of 42 people have been declared dead from the blaze.

Cowley said she was on vacation when she received the email. The company visited her home Wednesday, but she was not aware of what their conclusion was.

Earlier Monday, PG&E [said it experienced a problem on an electrical transmission line](#) near the site of the massive fire, minutes before the blaze broke out.

California authorities have launched a probe targeting PG&E to “assess the compliance of electric facilities with applicable rules and regulations in fire impacted areas.”