

Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure

Attachment 7, Focused Tree Inspection Instructions

This attachment provides instructions for performing the Focused Tree Inspections (FTI) program on vegetation that may impact Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) overhead electric distribution lines or facilities in Areas of Concern (AOCs).

To maintain safe and reliable operation, the FTI program focuses Vegetation Management (VM) efforts with qualified Inspectors during annual or second patrols in identified AOCs that have experienced higher volumes of vegetation damage and/or outages.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- REFER to the Target Audience section in [TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure."](#)
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) Vegetation Management Inspectors (VMIs)

BEFORE YOU START

- All individuals must complete PG&E Academy training required for inspections prior to performing this procedure. Training expectations are available at [Training Expectations](#).
- Confirm International ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) is current and on record in the appropriate system of record.
- Gather and review the following information:
 - Work packets
 - Pre-Patrol Report
 - Historical outage data
- Gather the assigned paint color for marking. Refer to [TD-7102P-01 "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure"](#) Appendix D, Tree Marking Colors.

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PROCEDURE STEPS

1.1 What To Inspect

1. INSPECT all Vegetation (categorized as either a whole tree or portion of tree) which has a likelihood of impacting PG&E electric facilities (excluding service drops).

1.2 Inspecting Vegetation

1. The TRAQ VMI must GO TO their first location and
2. PERFORM a Level 2 (Basic Tree Risk Assessment) of all Vegetation with the likelihood to impact PG&E electric facilities (excluding service drops).
 - a. Using a 15-month time frame a Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form is required for each tree inspected with the likelihood to impact PG&E electric facilities.

1.3 Prescribing Work

1. Using the Information gathered in the Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form and their professional judgement, the TRAQ VMI must DETERMINE which mitigation option applies to the vegetation.
 - a. PRESCRIBE the work for that option in the system of record.

1.4 Marking a Tree

1. REFER to the [TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure"](#) for Marking guidelines (Appendix D).

1.5 Notifying the Customer/Property Owner

1. REFER to the [TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure"](#) for Notifying the Customer/Property Owner guidelines (page 10, Section 6).

END of Instructions

DEFINITIONS

REFER to the [TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure"](#) for a complete list of definitions.

Facility (Distribution): The components of the electric distribution overhead system, including pole/support structure, primary conductors [4 kilovolts (kV) and less than 60 kV – with the majority being between 4 kV to 21 kV], voltage regulating equipment, switching equipment, transformers, and secondary conductors (operates under 750 V and supply ranging from 120 V to 480 V). Refer to [TD-8105, "Distribution Line Overhead Asset Management Plan"](#) for additional details.

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Time frame: Period in which you are estimating the likelihood of failure. Time frame is essential when rating the likelihood of failure with all categories except *imminent*, which has a different time frame (very soon).

Likelihood of Impact: When determining the likelihood of impact to PG&E electric facilities, the inspector should consider factors including tree height, lean, weight distribution, and whether the tree has a path to the conductors. If a tree cannot impact PG&E electric facilities during reasonably foreseeable conditions, it is not hazardous to it.

- The target zone (where tree failures may have impacts) is typically defined in terms of distance from conductors.
- For a branch failure, the target zone is the area in which the branch could strike and is evaluated using the same general principles. Reference the [Cal Fire Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide](#) for full definition Pg. 43 “Steps to Inspection”.

DOCUMENT APPROVER

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Where?	What Changed?
Entire Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewritten to include level of inspection requirements. • All Vegetation (categorized as either a whole tree or portion of tree) which has a likelihood of impacting PG&E electric facilities (excluding service drops) will receive a Level 2 assessment. • Removal of Regional Outage Analysis tables.