

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
**Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022**  
**Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_022-Q10		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_CalAdvocates_022-Q10		
Request Date:	June 8, 2022	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-NonCase-2022WMP-22
Date Sent:	July 5, 2022	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

These questions relate to the attached news story published on February 27, 2022 in NBC Bay Area headlined, "PG&E Cited After Deploying 'Heli-Saw' in San Mateo County Park"<sup>1</sup> (news story). The news story states that Cal Fire had accused PG&E of jeopardizing public safety when it deployed a Heli-Saw without notice in Wunderlich County Park on December 9, 2021.

**QUESTION 10**

The news story states, "Sampson estimated that branches of up to eight inches in diameter fell as much as 150 feet to the ground in the park."

- a) In normal operation of the Heli-Saw, how does PG&E protect the public from heavy branches falling, as described above?
- b) In normal operation of the Heli-Saw, how does PG&E protect employees and contractors working with the Heli-Saw from heavy branches falling, as described above?

**ANSWER 10**

- a) During vegetation work, including use of the Heli-Saw, employees and contractors secure the drop zone to protect themselves as well as the public by ensuring:
  - The drop zone is properly identified and marked
  - The drop zone is maintained to not allow entrance by unauthorized individuals
  - Three-way communication is established between the pilot, spotters, landing zone crew, and air traffic control
  - There is no authorized entry into the drop zone until they receive confirmation that it is safe to enter
- b) Please refer to Part (a).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/pge-cited-after-deploying-heli-saw-in-san-mateo-county-park/2824027/>.