

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_022-Q07		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_CalAdvocates_022-Q07		
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 07**

- a) Describe PG&E's current protocol for keeping members of the public out of an area where the Heli-Saw is operating.
- b) Describe all precautions that PG&E takes to protect public safety while the Heli-Saw is operating.
- c) Describe all precautions the Heli-Saw contractor takes to protect public safety while the Heli-Saw is operating.
- d) Has PG&E changed its procedures or protocols related to Heli-Saw operation since receiving the Cal Fire notice of violation described in the news story?
- e) If the answer to part (d) is yes, please list all changes made to the procedures or protocols related to Heli-Saw operation since receiving the Cal Fire notice of violation described in the news story.
- f) Please provide a copy of all PG&E procedures, job aids, or other guidance documentation related to operation of the Heli-Saw.

**ANSWER 07**

- a) During operation of the Heli-Saw, a ground crew monitors the boundaries using three-way communication of the work zone via radio to prevent unauthorized entry.
- b) During vegetation work, including use of the Heli-Saw, employees and contractors secure the drop zone to protect the public and their workers by ensuring:
  - The drop zone is properly identified and marked;
  - Three-way communication is established between the pilot, spotters, landing

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

zone crew, and air traffic control

- No one is in line of fire or downhill of the drop zone
  - There is no unauthorized entry into the drop zone
  - The no authorized entry is maintained until confirmation is received that it is safe to enter the drop zone
- c) Please refer to Part (b).
- d) PG&E has not changed its procedures or protocols related to Heli-Saw operation since receiving the Cal Fire letter.
- e) Not applicable
- f) PG&E has no internal procedures, job aides, or other guidance documentation related to operation of the Heli-Saw.