



Guidance Document References:

[TD-1001M, "Electric Transmission Preventive Maintenance Manual"](#)

[TD-7103P-01 Vegetation Management Transmission Inspection Procedure](#)

[TD-8123P-103, "Electric Transmission Line Guidance for Setting Priority Codes"](#)

Level of Use:

- ☐ Information
- ☒ Reference
- ☐ Continuous

Purpose:

This job aid provides the instructions and requirements for routine inspection of vegetation around PG&E electric transmission lines to ensure the safe and reliable operation of facilities.

Inspections for Vegetation

There are two broad categories of vegetation conditions:

1. Vegetation Impacting Structure, Framing or Lines
2. Significant Woody Vegetation around concrete foundation or base of structure

When reviewing Vegetation-to-Conductor clearance distances, including energized components, refer to Table 2 below. If vegetation-to-conductor is less than the clearance distances in Table 2, create a notification with priority E (short duration, 3mo) and FDA: Vegetation | Overgrown | Remove.

Table 2: Vegetation-to-Conductor Clearance Distance

Voltage (kV)	Clearance Distance	Action Required
60/70*	4 feet or less	Call VPM (Veg Program Manager)
115*	10 feet or less	Call VPM
230	10 feet or less	Call GCC and VPM
500	15 feet or less	Call GCC and VPM

* If the line is NERC/CAISO critical (Spaulding – Summit 60kV, Drum-Summit #1 115kV and Drum-Summit #2 115kV), call the GCC and VPM as required for 230kV and 500kV lines.

If **woody** vegetation is in contact with the pole or tower, vegetation is impacting the structure including guy wire(s), or significantly interferes with the inspection of the pole or structure base or footings, either:

- Remove the vegetation and note the removal on the inspection form, OR
- Create a notification for Vegetation Removal with the FDA code noted above. Choose the appropriate Priority Code for the situation, then Vegetation Management will arrange for appropriate vegetation work.

Guidance for Priority A

The term **IMMINENT THREAT** is used by PG&E to manage specific requirements in NERC FAC-003 and applies only to 500kV circuits, 230kV circuits, Drum – Summit #1 115kV, Drum – Summit #2 115kV, and Spaulding – Summit 60kV.

IF THERE IS **AN IMMINENT THREAT** TO ONE OF THESE CIRCUITS AS DEFINED BELOW, there is additional immediate communication required.

- **Imminent Threat** Vegetation-to-Conductor Clearance Distance – including tree uprooting and leaning towards lines or structures OR tree approaching Imminent Threat Vegetation-to-Conductor Clearance Distance which could be compromised by line sag or sway.

Table 3: Imminent Threat Vegetation-to-Conductor Clearance Distance

Voltage (kV)	Clearance Distance
60/70	1' 4" or less
115	2' 4" or less
230	4' 7" or less
500	8' 3" or less

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR IMMINENT THREAT:

- GCC [REDACTED]

Provide the following information:

- Description of the vegetation condition
- Location, including the line name, nearest structure number and approximate distance to the structure
- Field conditions, including information on environmentally sensitive areas
- Location access
- Remain on site until relieved by VM personnel.

Select Priority A for all Imminent Threat vegetation issues.

Refer to [TD-7103P-09 Transmission Vegetation Management Imminent Threat and Hazard Notification Procedure](#) if more detailed guidance is needed

All other ("non-NERC") 60kV/70kV/115kV transmission circuits:

If a tree is found within the Table 3 clearance distances or requires immediate attention due to uprooting and leaning towards lines or structures, select Priority A, notify the VPM, and remain on site until relieved by VM personnel if directed to do so by the VPM. GCC notification is not required but can be done at VM discretion.

Guidance for short duration Priority E

Select a shortened duration Priority E (3mo-12mo duration) ONLY if the conditions indicate that failure is likely before the standard duration E for the fire tier (6mo in T3, 12mo in T2, 36mo in non-HFTD). Consider site specific conditions (e.g., corrosion zone, local geography, public access, etc.) that may increase or decrease condition severity. In most cases, a standard duration E is acceptable for conditions recommended as E priority in TD-8123P-103 EXCEPT those listed below:

3mo E:

- Dead tree with line strike potential
- Vegetation clearance less than allowed according to G.O.95
- Vegetation clearance less than allowed according to PG&E internal requirements (See [Table 5](#))

6mo E (standard duration 6mo in T3):

- Vegetation covering switch platform (except seasonal grass growing through grated platform)

Obstructed facilities

When vegetation or other debris obstructs an inspection of the anchor(s) or another part of the structure, use the following guidance:

- Follow Cannot-Get-In (CGI) guidance for the applicable inspection method as recommended by TD-8123P-100 and TD-1001P-11 to determine whether a reinspection is required.
- If practical, attempt to remove any minor (i.e., non-woody), non-hazardous vegetation or other debris to view and inspect the anchor.
- If the vegetation is not removable with simple hand tools AND is not seasonal (e.g., grass), create a notification with priority E (Vegetation/Overgrown/Remove) to remove the vegetation.
- Do not create a notification for corrective maintenance on the anchors or other facilities UNLESS corrosion or other damage can be verified.

Vegetation blocking roads

Consider alternate access methods (or lack thereof) when recommending a priority. Use FDA Road | Brush Fuel | Remove with priority F UNLESS no other access method is viable AND road access is needed more urgently for planned maintenance.

Field Safety Reassessment (FSR) Guidance

Complete an FSR when required by [TD-8123P-101](#), [TD-1001M](#), or [TD-1001P-11](#). Include the following at a minimum:

- Structure number
- Overview image of the structure
- Photo(s) of the underlying condition
- A description of the condition, including whether the condition has changed over time

Assign the appropriate safety reassessment task code based on the **current** condition. Follow the steps below to assign the correct scenario; Table 2 shows a full list of available scenarios. The Centralized Inspection Review Team (CIRT) will assign the appropriate compliance due date.

1. If the inspector cannot access the structure assign Scenario 9 (cannot get in). If access is possible, proceed to step (2).
2. If ALL work is no longer required for any reason assign Scenario 8 (cancel). If ANY work is still required, proceed to step (3)
3. If the current priority AND duration is correct **as-is** assign Scenario 7 (valid as-is). If the priority or duration are NOT correct, proceed to step (4)
4. If the current priority or duration should be **CHANGED**, assign Scenario 1/3/4/5/6 (emergency, 3mo, 6mo, 12mo, 60mo respectively) based on the current conditions.

Table 2: FSR Scenarios

Scenario	Text	Notes
1	Emergency	Choose if emergency response is required
3	Fix/re-evaluate within 3mo	Choose if new duration should be 3mo AND current duration is NOT 3mo
4	Fix/re-evaluate within 6mo	Choose if new duration should be 6mo AND current duration is NOT 6mo
5	Fix/re-evaluate within 12mo	Choose if new duration should be 12mo AND current duration is NOT 12mo
6	Fix/re-evaluate within 60mo	Choose if new duration should be 60mo AND current duration is NOT 60mo
7	Valid as-is	Current duration is correct as-is
8	Cancel	No further work is required
9	CGI (Cannot Get In)	Unable to access structure

Tree fell across line



Priority A

FDA: Emergency | Other | Repair

Tree contacting conductors



Priority A

FDA: Emergency | Other | Repair

Tree clearance < GO95



Priority E (short duration, 3mo)

FDA: Vegetation | Overgrown | Remove

Dead tree with line strike potential: tall enough to strike conductors if it fails at the base



Priority E (short duration, 3mo)

FDA: Vegetation | Overgrown | Remove

Vegetation covering switch platform



Priority E (short duration, 6mo)

FDA: Vegetation | Overgrown | Remove

Woody brush obstructing inspection



Priority E

FDA: Vegetation | Overgrown | Remove

**Trees and woody brush at base of pole,
blocking pole access/climbing**



Priority E

FDA: Vegetation | Overgrown | Remove

Dead tree blocking road



Priority F

FDA: Road | Brush Fuel | Remove

**Grass (non-woody veg) obstructs anchor.
Assess at next planned ground inspection.**



Priority n/a
FDA: n/a

**Orchard tree, climbable pole,
also bucket accessible**



Priority n/a
FDA: n/a

**Brush at base of structure,
does not impede inspection**



Priority n/a
FDA: n/a

**No encroachment on regulatory or PG&E
clearance requirements (> 10ft on 230kV)**



Priority n/a
FDA: n/a

Vegetation Clearance Requirements:

NERC Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distance (for NERC Lines only)

Table 4: NERC Clearance Requirements

Elevation (feet)	60/70 kV	115 kV	230 kV	500 kV
0–500 ft.	1.1 ft.	1.9 ft.	4.0 ft.	7.0 ft.
501–1000	1.1	1.9	4.1	7.1
1001–2000	1.1	1.9	4.2	7.2
2001–3000	1.2	2.0	4.3	7.4
3001–4000	1.2	2.0	4.3	7.5
4001–5000	1.2	2.1	4.4	7.6
5001–6000	1.2	2.1	4.5	7.8
6001–7000	1.3	2.2	4.6	7.9
7001–8000	1.3	2.2	4.7	8.1
8001–9000	1.3	2.3	4.8	8.2
9000–10000	1.4	2.3	4.9	8.3
10001–11000	1.4	2.4	5.0	8.5
11001–12000	1.4	2.5	5.1	8.6
12001–13000	1.5	2.5	5.2	8.8
13001–14000	1.6	2.6	5.3	8.9
14001–15000	1.6	2.7	5.4	9.1

Additional Clearance Requirements

Table 5: All Other Clearance Requirements

Clearance Requirement	60/70 kV	115 kV	230 kV	500 kV
GO 95 Rule 35 (non-HFTD)	18in	19in	30.5in	9ft 7in
GO 95 Rule 35 (HFTD)	4ft	10ft	10ft	10ft
PRC 4293 (SRA during Fire Season)*	4ft	10ft	10ft	10ft
PG&E Internal (TD-7103P-01)	4ft	10ft	10ft	15ft

* Orchard production trees are exempt from PRC 4293 clearance requirements