



Preliminary Ignition Investigation Report

Ignition Database Index:	20240826
Electric Incident Investigation (EII) Number:	N/A
Incident Name:	Park
PG&E Facility Ignition?	Yes
CPUC Reportable Ignition?	Yes
Date & Time of Incident:	July 3, 2024 @ approximately 1353 hours
Street Address:	Near 2401 Robinson Creek Road
City:	Ukiah
County:	Mendocino
Latitude/Longitude:	39.0917063801, -123.2297306001
State Responsibility Area (SRA) / Local Responsibility Area (LRA) / Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)	State Responsibility Area
PG&E Division:	Humboldt
High Fire Threat District (HFTD):	Yes - Tier 2
High Fire Risk Area (HFRA):	Yes
EPSS Buffer:	No
Fire Index Area (FIA):	154
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: FIA	R4
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: Circuit	R4
Was there a PSPS event at the time of ignition?	No
Suspected Initiating Event:	Vegetation
Failure Driver:	Contact from object
Failure Sub-driver:	Contact – Vegetation
Circuit:	Ukiah 1114
Circuit Protection Zone:	Ukiah 1114-LR408
Nominal Voltage:	12kV
Pole SAP Equipment ID:	102212964
Subject to PRC 4292 Veg Pole Clearance:	No
PG&E Equipment associated with ignition:	# 4 ACSR primary conductor
EPSS enabled at time of ignition?	Yes
Fault Type:	Force Out
Wire Down (Primary)?	No
Lead Agency/Agency Having Jurisdiction:	CAL FIRE
Fire Size:	1 meter - <3 meters
FAS Field Remarks:	Deenergized line @ fuco 1971 @ 1353 hours. Removed limb, found damaged/burnt conductor, NG lightning arrestor and x cutouts. Created

	emergency EC tag for crew to make repairs Notification # 129166941.
HAWC Summary:	At approximately 1300 hours, fire resources were dispatched to a report of a possible vegetation fire in the area of Park Creek Lane and Hwy 253. Upon the arrival of the IC, all aircraft was placed on a hold and the balance canceled due to no active fire observed. The IC then advised that there were branches on the line still smoking and the small vegetation fire was contained prior to arrival at an undisclosed final size. There were 2 outages on the EPSS Ukiah 1114 OH circuit associated with this incident (OIS# 2503829 and OIS# 2503892), which affected a total of 6 customers. 2 T-Men and SIPT unit E-111 were dispatched and responded to the scene. Upon arrival the t-man identified the hazard, and the line was forced out deenergizing line at cutout #1971 at 1353 hours. The branch was removed and damage/burnt to the conductor, NG lightning arrestor and x cutouts were noted. An emergency EC tag for a crew to make repairs has been submitted. Notifications to DCC and Ops were made and a EPSS alert was sent. This incident will now be closed barring any significant change in the current conditions as advised.
Injuries / Fatalities / Property Damage / Media Attention:	No injuries, fatalities, property damage or media attention reported.
Weather Conditions:	At 1435 hours near the Incident Location Temperature: 109°F Relative Humidity: 12% Wind Speed: 4.6 mph out of the ESE
Red Flag Warning (RFW) / High Wind Warning (HWW):	Red Flag Warning (RFW) - No High Wind Warning (HWW) – No
911 Standby Relief Time:	21 minutes
OIS #:	2503892
ILIS #:	24-0083655
FAS #:	T006437350
TOTL #:	N/A
Assigned Attorney:	N/A
Ignition Investigator & Phone:	

Executive Summary

On July 3, 2024, at approximately 1322 hours, a PG&E troubleshooter was dispatched to a two-phase overhead section of the Ukiah 1114 12kV distribution circuit, near Robinson Creek Road in the city of Ukiah (Incident Location) in response to a call from CAL FIRE indicating tree branches on the overhead conductor resulting in a vegetation fire. The incident was in a Tier 2 High Fire Threat District (HFTD) and High Fire Risk Area (HFRA) during R4 conditions. PG&E's Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) were enabled for the circuit at the time of the incident.

The troubleshooter arrived on scene at 1343 hours and observed a tree branch on the primary overhead wire near pole SAP ID # 102212964, which resulted in a vegetation fire measuring 10x20-foot in size¹. CAL FIRE responded to and extinguished the fire. The troubleshooter deenergized the line by opening Fuse 1971 and removing the fallen branch. Damage was identified to the conductor, lightning arrester, and cutout. A priority "A" Electric Overhead Tag Notification # 129166941 was created because of this incident. A PG&E crew replaced one cutout, two lightning arrestors and 10 feet of # 4 ACSR primary conductor damaged by the failed tree branch. All associated work was completed and power was restored at 1642 hours on the same day².

As a result of the incident, Vegetation Management (VM) conducted an inspection of the location on July 5, 2024 and identified the Incident Tree as a 75-foot tall and 20 inches DBH (diameter breast height) Liquidambar (sweetgum). An approximate four-inch limb of the incident tree failed approximately eight feet above the overhead conductors. No defects or decay was observed on the limb. The incident tree was last worked on April 1, 2023 (Work Request # UKNC1040403) by a PG&E contract crew (Family Tree Service), which included a routine trim and clearance above the conductor. The incident tree was last inspected on April 8, 2024 with a next planned inspection on November 1, 2024.

On July 5, 2024, VM conducted an extent of condition (XoC) inspection of the area, which included five spans in all directions starting with the end pole span at the incident address but no priority trees were identified. The incident tree and one other tree (live oak) were prescribed for removal, however, constrained for refusal by the property owner. Additionally, three other oaks, three bays and one eucalyptus trees were listed for work and completed on August 19, 2024.

PG&E Meteorology data pulled from the MesoWest observation site that was approximately 2.97 miles northeast of the Incident Location indicates a hot and sunny day on July 3, 2024. At 1435 hours near the Incident Location, the temperature was 109°F, with relative humidity of 12%. Winds were 4.6 miles per hour (mph) out of the east-southeast. There were no Red Flag or High Wind Warnings in effect nor did this ignition occur during a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event.

This information is preliminary and subject to change based on new data.

System Protection Analysis

EPSS was enabled for the Ukiah 1114 12kV circuit at the time of the incident. Upstream protective device line recloser (LR) 408 was in EPSS Alternate 3 profile with Sensitive Ground Fault (SGF) settings and not equipped with Down Conductor Detection (DCD) at the time of the ignition.

¹ Fire size per CAL FIRE report #24CAMEU0008817.

² Prior to the incident, there were no outstanding electric or vegetation tags for pole SAP ID # 102212964.

A troubleshooter dispatched to the incident location near pole SAP ID # 102212964 observed a branch had fell into the overhead primary lines. System Distribution Engineering analysis indicates the branch on the conductor caused a high impedance fault, resulting in a vegetation fire. The fault current was not of sufficient magnitude or duration for the LR 408 to operate (SGF set for 15 amps with 15 second delay). No protective devices operated automatically and no partial voltage alarms were received. On July 3, 2024, the troubleshooter deenergized the lines by forcing out Fuse 1971. The EPSS Settings operated as intended for this event.

Ignition Impact

The incident resulted in a vegetation fire between one and three meters in size. A sustained outage lasting 169 minutes occurred, affecting six customers. No injuries, property damage or media coverage associated with this incident was identified.

Sequence of Events

July 3, 2024

- 1251 hours – IRWIN Time
- 1304 hours – CAL FIRE arrived onsite.
- 1322 hours – PG&E received call from CAL FIRE indicating tree branches on overhead conductors started vegetation fire. Fire was out but branches remained on wire.
- 1343 hours – PG&E troubleshooter arrives onsite and observed tree branch on overhead conductor.
- 1353 hours – PG&E troubleshooter opened Fuse 1971 to deenergize the line and remove the tree branch. Found damage to conductor, lightning arrestor, and cutouts.
- 1554 hours – PG&E crew dispatched.
- 1642 hours – PG&E crew completes repairs to damaged conductor, associated equipment damage and restored power to all six affected customers.

Corrective Notification Associated with Ignition

On July 3, 2024, a priority “A” Electric Corrective (EC) Notification # 129166941 was created because of this incident. A PG&E crew replaced one cutout, two lightning arrestors and 10 feet of primary conductor damaged by the failed tree branch. All associated work was completed and power was restored on the same day as the incident.

Pending Work

Type	Number	Description	Priority	Date Identified	Due Date
EC Notification	N/A	N/A			
COE Notification	N/A	N/A			
LC Notification	N/A	N/A			
Veg Work Order	N/A	N/A			

Please note this may not include pending major program or project work at the incident location.

Asset Info & Most Recent Inspections and Tests

Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	January 1973	45-foot Class 5 pole - Douglas Fir – per EDGIS
Inspection:	May 2, 2020	GO165 Inspection – No new compelling conditions identified during the inspection. Priority “F” EC Notification # 112073589 created on October 17, 2016 to trim tree around guy wire was still pending at the time of the inspection. The notification was canceled on August 10, 2021 as a field assessment inspection identified that all work had been completed.
	June 22, 2023	GO165 Inspection – A priority “E” EC Notification # 126423715 was opened to repair decayed pole top and damaged high sign. PG&E crews completed repairs identified on May 30, 2024.
Patrol:	N/A	
Corrective History:	N/A	
Aerial Inspection Records:	N/A	No images shown in Sharper Shape for this facility.
VM Inspection:	April 8, 2024	No work identified at the time of inspection.
EVM Inspection:		
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	June 12, 2013	Pass – 100% wood strength
WSIP Inspection:	March 21, 2019	There were no compelling abnormal conditions for the pole, equipment and associated spans reported.

*Incident Location: Pole SAP ID # 102212964

Hazard Barrier Analysis:

Hazard	Vegetation Contact	Sub-Hazard	Fallen Branch
Target	Fallen branch contacting PG&E overhead primary conductor resulting in a vegetation fire 1-3 meters in size in a Tier 2 HFTD.		
Barrier	Expected vs. Observed Performance	Why did the barrier not prevent the ignition event? (See ICF Codes)	Opportunity
Barriers that were Assessed as Opportunities			
Covered Conductor on	Expected Performance: Covered conductor should lower the risk of a wildfire.	A4B2C1D2 –Program limited to certain conductors	Fallen tree branch on the primary overhead wire caused a spark

This report is preliminary and based on available information as of November 19, 2024; event data is subject to change based upon subsequently discovered information.

Doc. R18 – Mar 2024

Internal

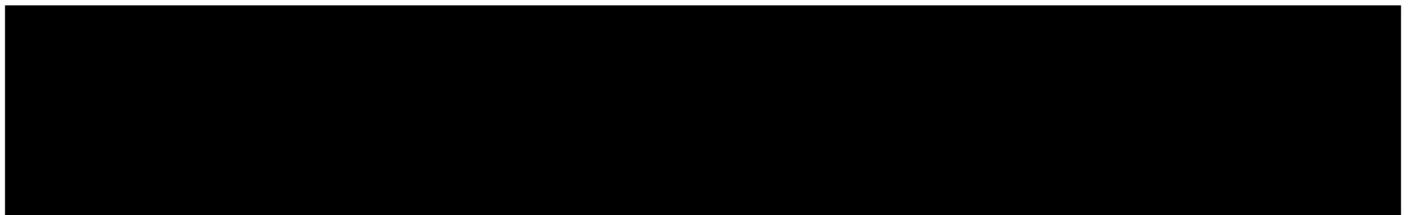
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Primary Conductors	Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist		resulting in vegetation fire. Covered conductor may have prevented the ignition.
Gridscope	Expected Performance: Enable detection of acoustic disturbances on the system, including line break, vegetation contact, conductor contact, or pole tilt Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	N/A	Gridscope technology may have detected fallen branch on primary conductor which may have prevented and/or limited the effects of the ignition.
Lower Default Sensitive Ground Fault Thresholds	Expected Performance: Automatically turn off power when a hazard is detected to trip on high-impedance faults. Lower setting on top 50% of risk. Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	N/A	EPSS settings are being created for LR 408 to lower SGF pickup.

Potential Next Steps / Associated CAP Items:

- None at this time.

Single Line Diagram



LEGEND



Substation



Fuse



Line Recloser



Area of Interest

Photos and Diagrams of Events

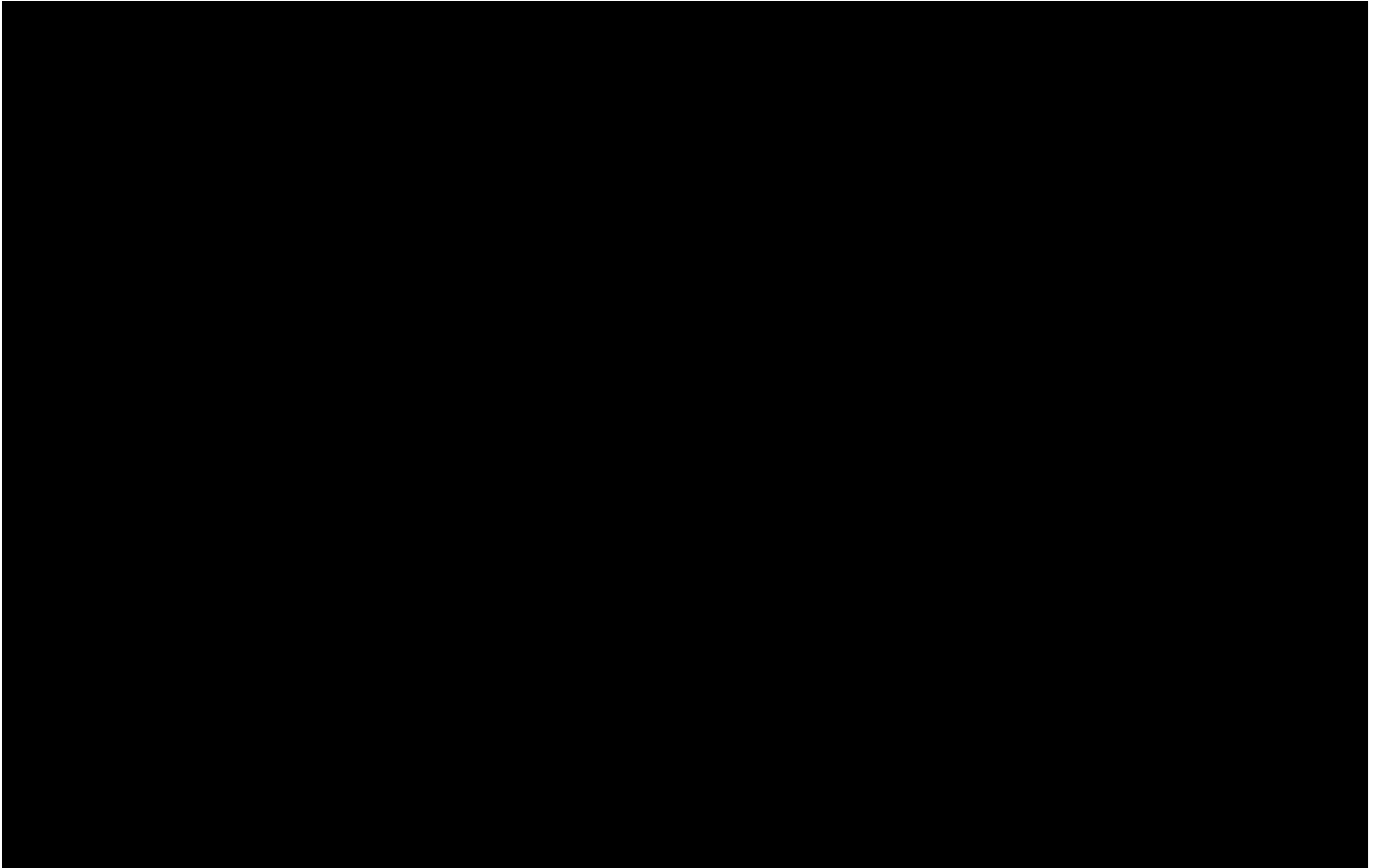


Figure 1 Image from EDGIS depicting specific origin area.

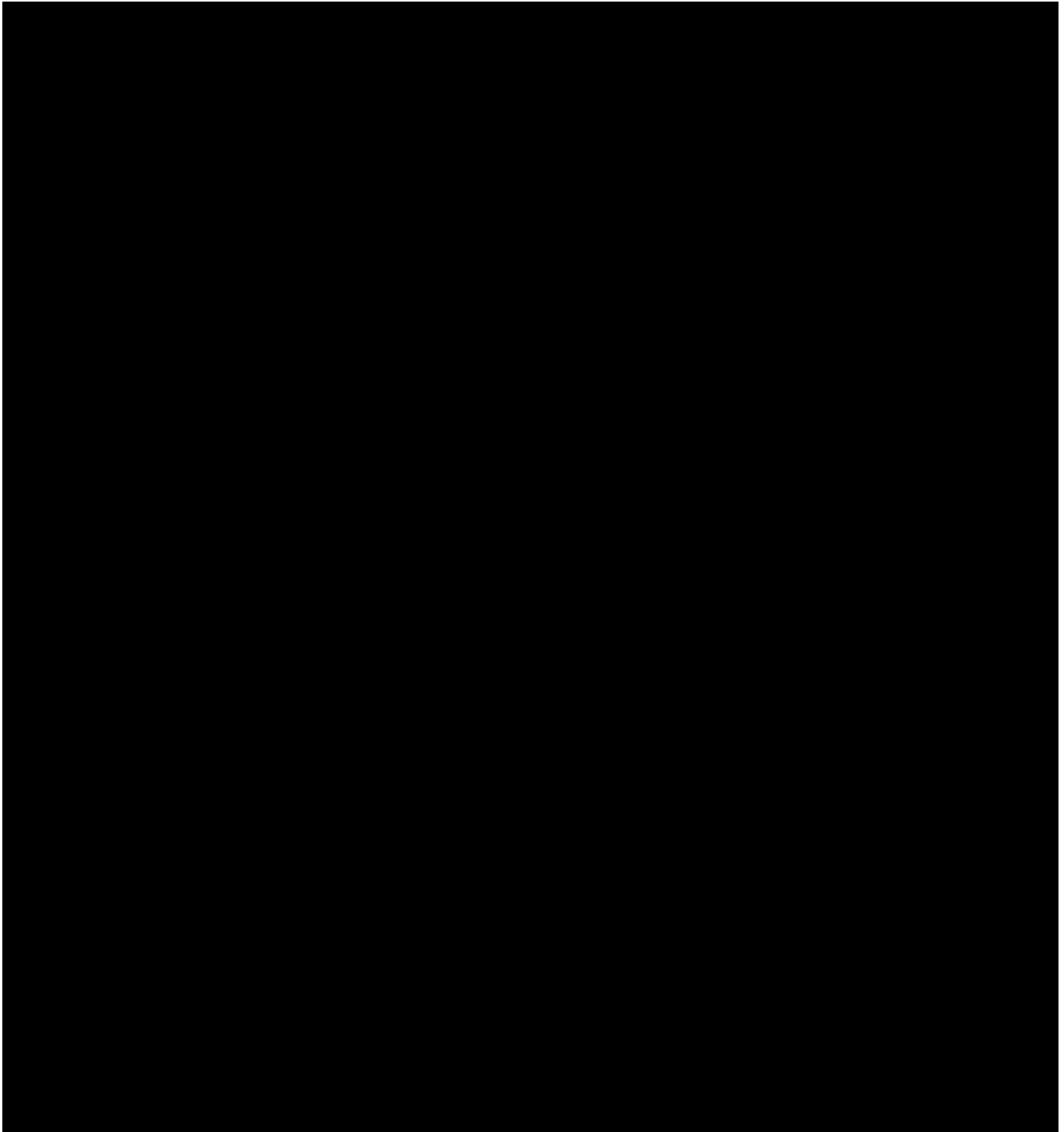


Figure 2 Image from EC Notification # 129166941 map depicting specific origin area. Fire occurred near pole SAP ID # 102212964.



Figure 3 Photo depicts fallen branch (circled in red) on overhead conductor near pole SAP ID # 102212964 taken by troubleshooter on July 3, 2024.



Figure 4 Close up photo of fallen branch on overhead conductor taken by troubleshooter on July 3, 2024.



Figure 5 Photo of fallen branch from Incident Tree taken by VM inspector on July 5, 2024.



Figure 6 Photo of burn area facing uphill taken by troubleshooter on July 3, 2024.

Attachments

Attachments and references can be located in the ESA folder, located below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----END of REPORT-----