



Preliminary Ignition Investigation Report

Ignition Database Index:	20240932
Electric Incident Investigation (EII) Number:	N/A
Incident Name:	Unconfirmed in Butte
PG&E Facility Ignition?	Yes
CPUC Reportable Ignition?	Yes
Date & Time of Incident:	July 12, 2024 at approximately 1933 hours
Street Address:	Near [REDACTED]
City:	Oroville
County:	Butte
Latitude/Longitude:	[REDACTED]
State Responsibility Area (SRA) / Local Responsibility Area (LRA) / Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)	SRA
PG&E Division:	North Valley
High Fire Threat District (HFTD):	Tier 2
High Fire Risk Area (HFRA):	Yes
EPSS Buffer:	No
Fire Index Area (FIA):	280
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: FIA	R4
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: Circuit	R3
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:	Bangor 1101, 10319-1101
Circuit Protection Zone:	Bangor 1101 LR 614048
Nominal Voltage:	120V – Secondary 12kV – Primary
Pole SAP Equipment ID:	104087251
Subject to PRC 4292 Veg Pole Clearance:	No
PG&E Equipment associated with ignition:	1/0 Triplex Aluminum Service Conductor
EPSS enabled at time of ignition?	Yes (Circuit)
Fault Type:	N/A – No ILIS
Wire Down (Primary)?	No (Secondary)
Lead Agency/Agency Having Jurisdiction:	CAL FIRE but fire extinguished by customer
Fire Size:	Less than 0.25 acres
FAS Field Remarks:	Tree branch broke and broke service drop also causing small fire, homeowner had fire out before

	CAL FIRE got there, address not GPS because it wasn't working at fire location.
HAWC Summary:	Smoke seen on camera and dissipated quickly. OIS # 2515585 with single customer outage on a EPSS enabled Bangor 1101 circuit. Per Tman FAS Report, tree branch broke and broke service drop also causing small fire, homeowner had fire out before CAL FIRE got there. No notifications made due to limited intel and small fire quickly extinguished. Closing incident.
Injuries / Fatalities / Property Damage / Media Attention:	Minor fence damage – No claims for damage per Law Claims No Injuries/Fatalities/Media Attention
Weather Conditions:	Hot and dry at 106.8°F
Red Flag Warning (RFW) / High Wind Warning (HWW):	RFW – No HWW – No
911 Standby Relief Time:	30 minutes
OIS #:	2515585
ILIS #:	N/A
FAS #:	T006447943 T006447945 - Assist
TOTL #:	N/A
Assigned Attorney:	N/A
Ignition Investigator & Phone:	

Executive Summary

On July 12, 2024 at approximately 1931 hours, PG&E received a 911 Standby call from CAL FIRE requesting assistance with a small vegetation fire and reports of a service wire down. Shortly after, PG&E dispatched two troubleshooters to the single-phase secondary segment of the Bangor 1101 12kV distribution circuit (see Figure 1) near Dunstone Drive and Butte Oaks Road in the Community of Oroville. At approximately 1958 hours, the troubleshooters arrived on site to an extinguished fire that burnt the dry flashy grass near the base of Pole SAP 104087251 (Incident Pole). Both Fuse 13011 and Line Recloser (LR) 614048 did not operate and were found closed with no outage report. The troubleshooters patrolled the incident span and observed a fallen tree limb along with a downed 1/0 triplex aluminum service conductor on the ground between the Incident Pole and adjacent Pole SAP ID 104087252 (see Figure 2 and 3). The troubleshooters de-energized power to the single customer and cut away the incident tree to make clearance to install two new spans of triplex from the weatherhead to the transformer pole (Transformer Pole, CGC 221525562808; SAP ID 100411471) east of the Incident Pole. Indications are that the tree limb broke off, fell onto the secondary and sparked a vegetation fire below. The less than 0.25 acre vegetation fire was quickly extinguished by the customer prior to CAL FIRE's arrival.

No corrective tags were required as a result of this incident. Furthermore, a historical search into the Incident Pole shows that the pole was replaced on November 10, 2021 with no identified risk/issues or open tags prior to the ignition event.

The Vegetation Management (VM) team conducted a post-incident investigation on July 12, 2024. The incident tree identified by the VM investigator is a 35-foot tall blue oak with a 23-inch diameter at breast height (DBH) located nine feet from the conductor. The blue oak experienced a partial failure of a nine-inch DBH limb that broke out and fell onto the service drop resulting in the strain, failure and arcing of the conductor. The resulting fire damage extended to a nearby fence. The VM investigator noted that the blue oak exhibited signs of decay. The blue oak is not in scope for Routine Inspection or a Tree Mortality Inspection Record as it is located near a service drop. Additionally, the blue oak is not listed within the Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) workplan. The closest tree identified for EVM work was located approximately 260 feet away from the Incident Location.

An Extent of Condition (XoC) was also completed by the VM team on July 16, 2024. The XoC included a patrol of the adjacent spans on either side of the Incident Pole for similar trees and risk conditions. One blue oak tree located near the Transformer Pole to the east of the Incident Pole was identified and prescribed for pruning (see Figure 4).

PG&E Meteorology data pulled from the MesoWest observation site that is approximately 3.3 miles northwest of the Incident Location indicates a hot and dry day at 106.8°F with relative humidity at 23%. Winds registered up to 2.8 Miles Per Hour (MPH) from the south with gusts up to 6.9 MPH. The strongest recorded wind gust was up to 11.2 MPH at 1200 hours. There were no Red Flag or High Wind Warning nor did this incident occur during

a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event. However, the National Weather Service issued an Excessive Heat Warning that was in effect at the time of the incident.

System Protection Analysis

This ignition occurred within a Tier 2 High Fire Threat District (HFTD) and High Fire Risk Area (HFRA). PG&E’s Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) were enabled for the Bangor 1101 distribution circuit given R3 FPI conditions, the expected wind speeds, relative humidity and fuel moisture threshold for the area. However, this ignition event involved a secondary service, which is not under EPSS protection.

Ignition Impact

This event on July 12, 2024 was the result of a broken tree branch that contacted the service drop and sparked a small vegetation fire measuring less than 0.25 acre in size near the base of the pole. No outage was captured on PG&E’s Integrated Logging Information System (ILIS). However, there was an outage to a single customer that lasted 155 minutes. There were no reports of injuries, fatalities, property damages or significant media attention associated with this event.

Sequence of Events

July 12, 2024

- 1931 Hours: 911 Standby request call received.
- 1934 Hours: PG&E dispatched troubleshooters.
- 1958 Hours: Troubleshooters arrived on site.
- 2004 Hours: SmartMeter™Last Gasp
- 2206 Hours: Outage ends.

Corrective Notification Associated with Ignition

No corrective tags were required for this ignition event.

Pending Work

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

Source Side Structure	104087251 (Incident Pole) 100411471 (Ancestor Tree Connect)	
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	Incident Pole November 10, 2021	35-foot, Class 4, Wood
	Ancestor Tree Connect January 1, 1991	45-foot, Class 5, Douglas Fir
Inspection:	Ancestor Tree Connect May 7, 2021	GO165 inspection Identified damaged pole, incorrectly installed tap clamps, and non-exempt lightning arresters. No tags were created but reference made to existing EC tag (#116881528).
Patrol:	N/A	
Corrective History:	Ancestor Tree Connect December 31, 2021	Priority “B” EC tag (#122543702) for installing missing surge arrester/grounding was cancelled. See EC tag (#123538829) below.
	January 1, 2020	EC tag (#123538829) is part of a ‘go back’ or a return to the work location to replace lightning arresters. Work completed on June 16, 2022.
	April 1, 2019	Priority “E” EC tag (#116881528) created to install clearance pole and to replace 150-feet of aluminum triplex. Work completed on November 10, 2021 with installation of new pole.
Aerial Inspection Records:	Ancestor Tree Connect August 14, 2019	Aerial photos of asset in Sharper Shape.
		No aerial photos of asset in iHawk as of yet.
VM Inspection:	N/A	Tree is not within scope for Routine or Tree Mortality Inspection Records.
EVM Inspection:	N/A	Incident tree is not within scope for the EVM workplan.
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	Ancestor Tree Connect February 10, 2008	Passing results with the following: Fair pole top and pole bottom condition. Wood strength testing at 100%.

WSIP Inspection:	Ancestor Tree Connect April 1, 2019	WSIP Inspection identified tight service connect to tree. Also noted non-exempt equipment with one auto splice one span west of pole. Refer to EC tag (#116881528) above.
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Load Side Structure	104087252	
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	1991	25-foot, Class 6, Douglas Fir
Inspection:	July 25, 2022	No issues identified during inspection.
	October 9, 2018	No issues identified during inspection.
Patrol:	N/A	
Corrective History:	N/A	
Aerial Inspection Records:	August 14, 2019	Aerial photos of asset in Shaper Shape.
		No aerial photos of asset in iHawk as of yet.
VM Inspection:	N/A	Tree is not within scope for Routine or Tree Mortality Inspection Records.
EVM Inspection:	N/A	Incident tree is not within scope for the EVM workplan.
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	April 2, 2024	Passing results with wood strength testing at 100%.
WSIP Inspection:	N/A	

*Incident Location: Between Pole SAP ID 104087251 and 104087252

Hazard Barrier Analysis:

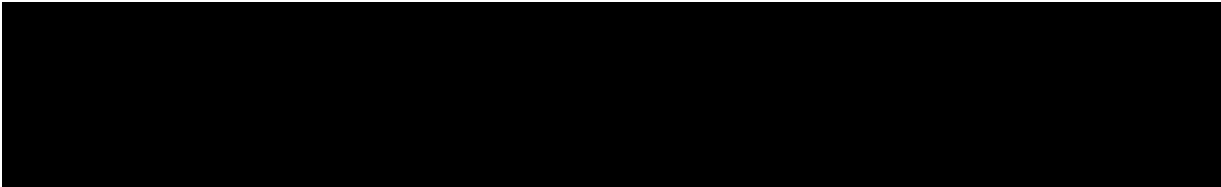
Hazard	Vegetation Contact	Sub-Hazard	Fallen Branch
Target	Fallen Tree Branch Contacting PG&E Assets		
Barrier	Expected vs. Observed Performance	Why did the barrier not prevent the ignition event? (See ICF Codes)	Opportunity
Barriers that were Assessed as Opportunities			
Service Breakaway Disconnect for Overhead Services	Expected Performance: Prevent downed service drop ignitions due to externally loading (e.g., fallen branch) Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	A4B2C2D1 – Location not prioritized for program	Service Breakaway could have de-energized the downed service wire.

Pole Clearing Program	Expected Performance: Limit fire spread potential near poles for a PG&E equipment involved ignition event within State Responsibility Areas, poles with non-exempt equipment, and selected poles outside of the regulations of PRC 4292. Clear 10-ft radius around subject poles from 0-8 feet above ground level.; Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	[A4B2C3D3 - Strategy: Program Strategies; Pole-Clearing-Related ; Midspan ignition]	Although this pole was not subjected to PRC 4292, the ignition did occur near the base of the pole.
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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

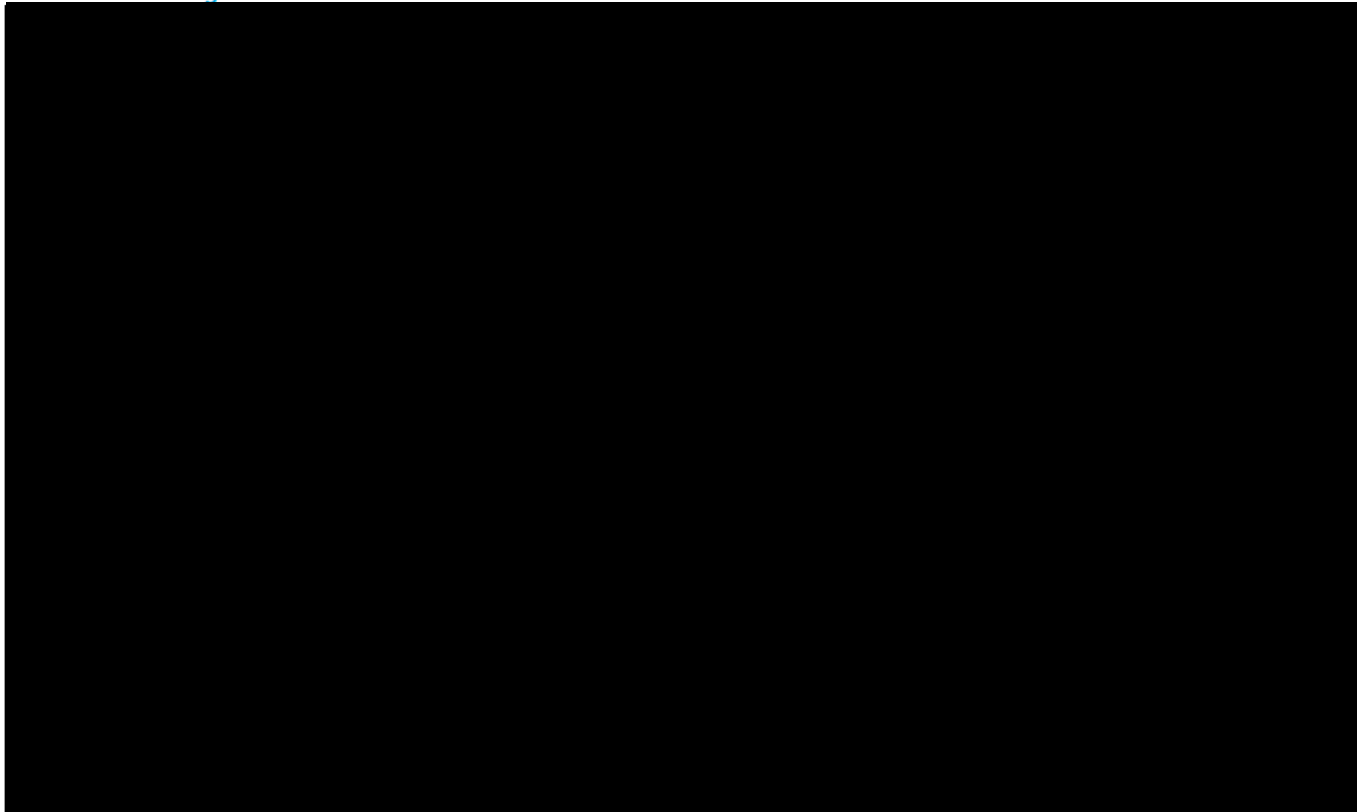


Figure 1 – EDGIS diagram of the Bangor 1101. The approximate location of the fire is designated with a red square and the approximate location of the tree failure is marked with a red x.



Figure 2 – View of failed tree limb into the secondary with a portion of the burn scar shown near the Incident Pole on July 12, 2024. Photo taken by the troubleshooter.



Figure 3 – View of the Incident Pole with failed tree limb also shown on the ground on July 12, 2024. Photo taken by the troubleshooter.

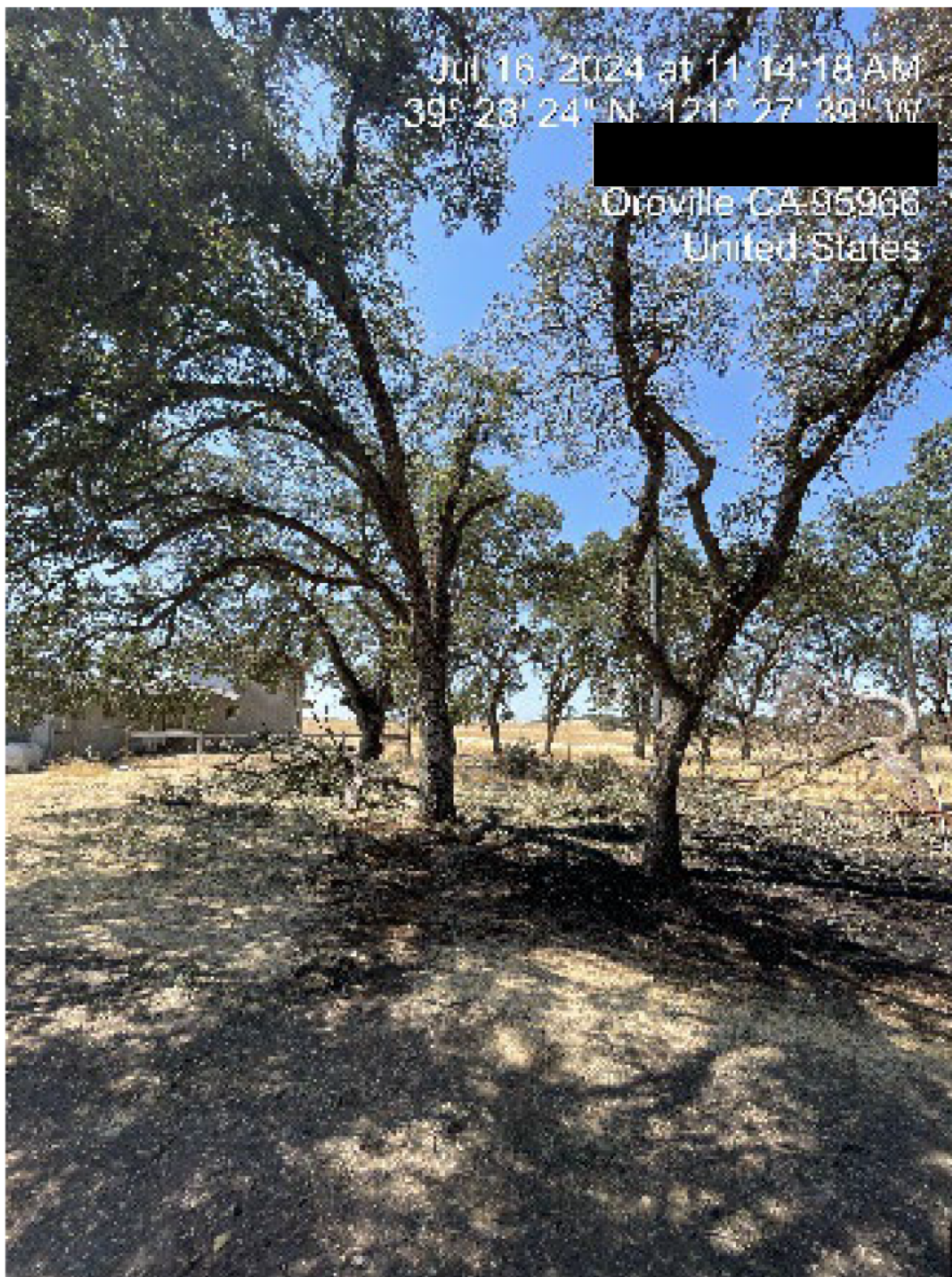


Figure 4 – An additional blue oak identified and prescribed for pruning post-incident on July 16, 2024. Photo taken by the VM team.

Attachments

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



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

This report is preliminary and based on available information as of **August 7, 2024**; event data is subject to change based upon subsequently discovered information.

Doc. R18 – Mar 2024

Internal