



## Preliminary Ignition Investigation Report

<b>Ignition Database Index:</b>	20241101
<b>Electric Incident Investigation (EII) Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Incident Name:</b>	Dalewood
<b>PG&amp;E Facility Ignition?</b>	Yes
<b>CPUC Reportable Ignition?</b>	Yes
<b>Date &amp; Time of Incident:</b>	August 7, 2024 at 1415 hours
<b>Street Address:</b>	10014 Dalewood Way
<b>City:</b>	Grass Valley
<b>County:</b>	Nevada
<b>Latitude/Longitude:</b>	39.15184, -121.06801
<b>State Responsibility Area (SRA) / Local Responsibility Area (LRA) / Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)</b>	State Responsibility Area (SRA)
<b>PG&amp;E Division:</b>	Sierra
<b>High Fire Threat District (HFTD):</b>	Tier 2
<b>High Fire Risk Area (HFRA):</b>	Yes
<b>EPSS Buffer:</b>	No
<b>Fire Index Area (FIA):</b>	330
<b>Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: FIA</b>	R5
<b>Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: Circuit</b>	R5
<b>Was there a PSPS event at the time of ignition?</b>	No
<b>Suspected Initiating Event:</b>	Vegetation
<b>Failure Driver:</b>	Contact from Object
<b>Failure Sub-driver:</b>	Contact – Vegetation
<b>Circuit:</b>	Higgins 1103
<b>Circuit Protection Zone:</b>	Higgins 1103-32120
<b>Nominal Voltage:</b>	12kV
<b>Pole SAP Equipment ID:</b>	104219586
<b>Subject to PRC 4292 Veg Pole Clearance:</b>	No
<b>PG&amp;E Equipment associated with ignition:</b>	Conductor – Primary (25-Al)
<b>EPSS enabled at time of ignition?</b>	Yes
<b>Fault Type:</b>	Force Out
<b>Wire Down (Primary)?</b>	No
<b>Lead Agency/Agency Having Jurisdiction:</b>	CAL FIRE
<b>Fire Size:</b>	3 meters – 0.25 acres
<b>FAS Field Remarks:</b>	“tree fell / grew in to primary lines caught ground and pole on fire pole still structurally sound arm and insulators good

	cut tree off line & restored unmapped pole”
<b>HAWC Summary:</b>	Resources responded to a vegetation fire at the intersection of Dalewood Way and Braemar Way in Nevada County. The fire was quickly contained at less than a quarter acre. There was an outage in the immediate area due to line crews pulling fuse impacting approximately 125 customers on OIS# 2536868 on the EPSS enabled Higgins 1103 Circuit. PSS was notified. No other notifications made due to quick containment of the fire.
<b>Injuries / Fatalities / Property Damage / Media Attention:</b>	None
<b>Weather Conditions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature: 95.7°F</li> <li>• Relative Humidity: 14%</li> <li>• Wind Speed: 4.8 mph</li> <li>• Wind Gust: 11.2 mph from the southwest</li> </ul> Weather observation site approximately 1.63 miles southwest of the Ignition Location.
<b>Red Flag Warning (RFW) / High Wind Warning (HWW):</b>	No
<b>911 Standby Relief Time:</b>	16 minutes
<b>OIS #:</b>	2536868
<b>ILIS #:</b>	24-0096873
<b>FAS #:</b>	T006469384, T006469401
<b>TOTL #:</b>	N/A
<b>Assigned Attorney:</b>	N/A
<b>Ignition Investigator &amp; Phone:</b>	

## Executive Summary

On August 7 at approximately 1410 hours, CAL FIRE reported a fire under a power line to PG&E Dispatch at 10014 Dalewood Way in Grass Valley in Nevada County ("Ignition Location"). PG&E dispatched a troubleshooter (Troubleshooter #1) to the Ignition Location at 1415 hours and a second troubleshooter (Troubleshooter #2) at 1428 hours. At 1430 hours, the Troubleshooter #2 arrived at the Ignition Location and reported a tree was on the line and a pole was on fire. Troubleshooter #2 asked the Distribution Control Center ("DCC") to open Line Recloser (LR) 32120 to de-energize the Incident Location. Between 1422 hours and 1514 hours, Troubleshooters #1 and #2 worked with DCC to isolate the Ignition Location and restore power to customers. At 1541 hours, Troubleshooter #2 cut the tree off of the line and confirmed that the pole was structurally sound and that there was no observable damage to the conductors (see Figure 2). Troubleshooters #1 and #2 then restored the circuit to normal by 1630 hours.

Vegetation Management ("VM") conducted a post-incident investigation and extent of condition patrol on August 8, 2024 (see Figure 3). The VM investigator concluded that the limbs of a 26-inch Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) black oak came into contact with the primary conductors, causing a small grass fire. The tree was described as in overall good health with no signs of rot or defects. Since Troubleshooter #2 had cut the tree back from the conductors at the time of restoration, the VM investigator could not determine the tree/branch-to-line clearance prior to the incident.

The incident tree was marked for trimming during an Enhanced Vegetation Management ("EVM") inspection in 2022. During that inspection, VM ran the tree through the VM Tree Assessment Tool, and the tree received a 'do not abate' score. The tree was prescribed for major overhang work to be completed in the 2023 work plan. Since the EVM program was cancelled, the tree would have been inspected as part of the Routine and Second Patrols.

## System Protection Analysis

The Higgins 1103 circuit was EPSS-enabled at the time of the ignition. LR 32120 is a Nova recloser with a M7679, Rev. 3.4 controller and was enabled with instantaneous trip, Sensitive Ground Fault, and Downed Conductor Detection settings. There were no events picked up by the LR prior to DCC opening the LR because the tree on the conductor caused a high-impedance fault.

## Ignition Impact

The ignition led to an approximately three-meter to 0.25-acre fire, which was extinguished by CAL FIRE. There ignition did not require any repairs to PG&E equipment. The ignition resulted in an outage to 1,418 customers for between 40 and 63 minutes.

## Sequence of Events

August 7, 2024

- 1410 hours: CAL FIRE reported fire under power line at 10014 Dalewood Way, requesting ETA.
- 1422 hours: Troubleshooter #1 arrived at Incident Location, identified tree on conductor and pole on fire. DCC opened LR 32120 at 1424 hours, causing an outage to 1,418 customers.
- 1436 hours: Troubleshooter #2 opened Switch 2139.
- 1437 hours: Troubleshooter #1 opened Switch 1299.
- 1443 hours: Troubleshooter #1 opened Fuse 8097, creating a loop and isolating the trouble.
- 1456 hours: Troubleshooter #1 closed Switch 8095.
- 1504 hours: DCC closed LR 32120, restoring power to 1,098 customers.
- 1510 hours: Troubleshooter #1 closed Switch 1521, restoring power to 195 customers.
- 1541 hours: Troubleshooter #1 cut tree back from conductors, reported that the pole was not structurally damaged, and observed no damage to conductors.
- 1607 hours: Troubleshooter #1 closed Switch 1299, restoring power to 125 customers.
- 1623 hours: Troubleshooter #2 opened Switch 1521, causing an outage to 195 customers.
- 1630 hours: Troubleshooter #1 closed Switch 2139, restoring power to 195 customers and restoring the circuit to a normal configuration.

## Corrective Notification Associated with Ignition

No corrective notification was created for this ignition.

## Pending Work

There was no pending work for the incident pole.

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

<b>Incident Structure</b>	104219586	
<b>Info / Inspection</b>	<b>Most Recent Date</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Install Date:	2022	Pole was installed as a replacement for a solely-owned communication pole in 2022, but was not mapped at that time.
Inspection:	None	
Patrol:	None	
Corrective History:	None	

Aerial Inspection Records:	None	
VM Inspection:	May 22, 2024	Location was last inspected on May 22, 2024. No work was prescribed.
EVM Inspection:	2022	Incident tree was inventoried as part of an EVM inspection in 2022 but received a 'do not abate' score from the VM Tree Assessment Tool. It was prescribed for major overhang work and put in 'hold' status to be worked in the 2023 work plan. Since the EVM program was cancelled, the tree would be inventoried as part of the Tree Removal Inventory program for future work.
Pole Intrusive Test:	None	
WSIP Inspection:	None	

#### Hazard Barrier Analysis:

Hazard	Vegetation Contact	Sub-Hazard	Fallen Tree
Target	Tree leaned over into conductors, leading to 3 meter – 0.25 acre around base of pole.		
Barrier	Expected vs. Observed Performance	Why did the barrier not prevent the ignition event? (See <a href="#">ICF Codes</a> )	Opportunity
Barriers that were Assessed as Opportunities			
Covered Conductor on Primary Conductors	Expected Performance: Lower risk of ignition by using covered conductor  Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	A4B2C1D2 – Program limited to certain conductors	Covered conductor may have prevented ignition when tree contacted conductors.
Pole Clearing Program	Expected Performance: Lower ignition potential around base of pole  Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	N/A	Pole clearing may have reduced ignition potential as fire started at base of pole. However, there was no equipment on the pole, so would not be in scope for current pole clearing programs.

#### Potential Next Steps / Associated CAP Items:

- Request for Work (RW) 129357958 was submitted and completed on August 9, 2024, to resolve the unmapped pole.
- CAP 129359337 was created to ensure the unmapped pole (SAP ID 104219586) is added to an inspection cycle and to research the reason that the pole was not mapped upon its installation in 2022.

## Single Line Diagram



### LEGEND



Substation



Fuse

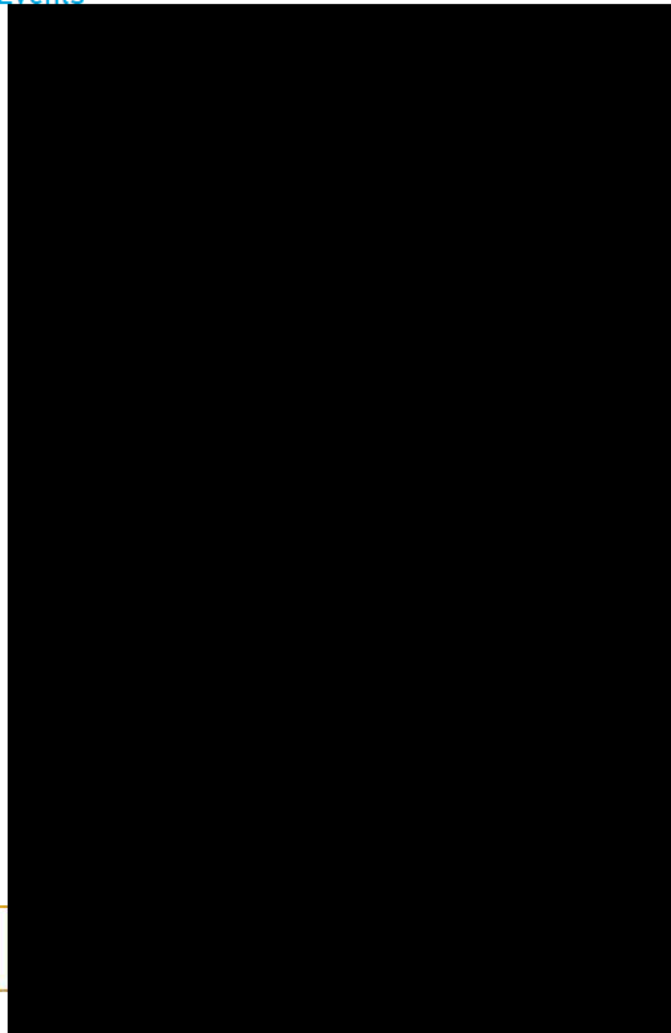


Line  
Recloser



Area of  
Interest

## Photos and Diagrams of Events



*Figure 1. EDGIS Map of Higgins 1103 Circuit up to Ignition Location.*





Figure 2. Incident photos, taken August 7, 2024.



Figure 3. Photos from VM Post-Incident Investigation, taken August 8, 2024.

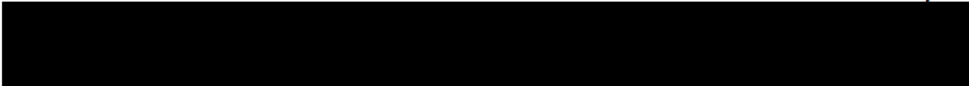




Figure 4. Photo of most recent inspection from adjacent pole (SAP ID 100067400) on July 9, 2023. Incident pole can be observed in background.

## Attachments

The below ESA folder includes attachments and references related to this report:



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