



## Preliminary Ignition Investigation Report

Ignition Database Index:	20240489
Electric Incident Investigation (EII) Number:	N/A
Incident Name:	Benancio - 24 May 2024
PG&E Facility Ignition?	Yes
CPUC Reportable Ignition?	Yes
Date & Time of Incident:	May 24, 2024 @ 1252 hours
Street Address:	In the vicinity of [REDACTED] Road
City:	Salinas
County:	Monterey
Latitude/Longitude:	[REDACTED]
State Responsibility Area (SRA) / Local Responsibility Area (LRA) / Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)	State Responsibility Area (SRA)
PG&E Division:	Central Coast
High Fire Threat District (HFTD):	Tier 2
High Fire Risk Area (HFRA):	Yes
EPSS Buffer:	No
Fire Index Area (FIA):	505
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: FIA	R1
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: Circuit	R1
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 / Tree grew into Secondary
Circuit:	Reservation Road 1101
Circuit Protection Zone:	Reservation Road 1101383718
Nominal Voltage:	12kV – Circuit 750V – Secondary (Incident Location)
Pole SAP Equipment ID:	SAP Pole ID: 101780037 (Load Side) and SAP Pole ID: 101747581 (Source Side)
Subject to PRC 4292 Veg Pole Clearance:	No
PG&E Equipment associated with ignition:	Conductor
EPSS enabled at time of ignition?	No
Fault Type:	Line to line
Wire Down (Primary)?	No
Lead Agency/Agency Having Jurisdiction:	Monterey County Fire Departments (Gabilan and Carmel Hill)
Fire Size:	One acre (based on HAWC summary)

<b>FAS Field Remarks:</b>	Trees grown into secondary wires. hi winds earlier today slapped wires together causing them to arc. sparks hit ground starting veg fire. no pge was damaged by fire. fire traveled up hillside away from pge lines. old sp transformer did not open when wires made contact. crew is to replace tx and resag conductor. tree crew will clear trees from line while de-energized.
<b>HAWC Summary:</b>	Resources responded to a vegetation fire at [REDACTED] Road in Monterey County. The fire was contained at 1 acre. Fire was located in a Tier 2 wildfire threat area with circuit Reservation Road 1101 in the immediate area. There was an outage in the area on OIS#2466678 affecting 3 customers.
<b>Injuries / Fatalities / Property Damage / Media Attention:</b>	No/No/No/No
<b>Weather Conditions:</b>	It was a seasonably cool and dry day, 55.7° @ 1300 hours on May 24, 2024, near the Incident Location.
<b>Red Flag Warning (RFW) / High Wind Warning (HWW):</b>	No/No
<b>911 Standby Relief Time:</b>	20 minutes
<b>OIS #:</b>	2466676
<b>ILIS #:</b>	24-0069849
<b>FAS #:</b>	T006402190
<b>TOTL #:</b>	N/A
<b>Assigned Attorney:</b>	N/A
<b>Ignition Investigator &amp; Phone:</b>	[REDACTED]

## Executive Summary

On May 24, 2024, at approximately 1254 hours, PG&E dispatched a troubleshooter in response to multiple SmartMeter™ auto-generated outage reports in the vicinity of [REDACTED] Salinas CA. The ignition occurred on a single-phase secondary overhead segment of the Reservation Road 1101 750V Distribution Circuit (see Figures 1 and 2), in Tier 2 High Fire Threat District (HFTD), High Fire Risk Area (HFRA), State Responsibility Area (SRA), during Fire Potential Index (FPI) R1 conditions.

The Field Automation System (FAS) record stated that the PG&E troubleshooter arrived on the scene at approximately 1312 hours and observed a fire. The troubleshooter indicated that tree vines had grown into the secondary wires, and that high winds may have caused the secondary wires to slap together and arc resulting in sparks hitting the ground and starting the vegetation fire, (see Figures 3, 4, and 5) between distribution SAP Pole ID: 1001780037 (Load Side) and SAP Pole ID: 1001747581 (Source Side).

The fire is listed as the "Benancio - 24 May 2024" fire in the Hazard Awareness Wildfire Command (HAWC) fire activity report. The ensuing fire had spread to about one acre (based on the HAWC summary) in size and was

suppressed by two Monterey County CAL FIRE Departments (Gabilan and Carmel Hill) on May 24, 2024, (see Figure 6).

The PG&E repair crew arrived onsite at 1725 hours and adjusted (re-sagged) the slack secondary conductors. While onsite, the crew also replaced the transformer and cut-out on SAP Pole ID: 1001747581 due to deterioration and aging. This replaced equipment was not related to the ignition. Additionally, a tree crew was onsite to clear trees from the line while de-energized on May 24, 2024.

Meteorology data pulled from the MesoWest weather observation site that was approximately 1.2 miles south-southwest of the Incident Location indicating it was a seasonably cool and dry day at 55.7°F with a relative humidity of 68%. Winds registered 4.3 Miles Per Hour (MPH) with gusts up to 13.2 MPH at the approximate time of the incident. Relative humidity was as high as 99 % at 2250 hours and as low as 59% at 1510 hours.

A post-incident investigation was performed by a Vegetation Management (VM) investigator on May 30, 2024, near the Incident Location. The VM investigator observed a small oak woodland area and estimated that approximately 0.5 acres was burned. The area directly below the secondary line did not appear to be burned. Numerous oak trees appeared to have been recently trimmed to clear the secondary line and fire retardant was dropped at the secondary end pole.

An extent of condition (EOC) investigation was performed by another VM investigator on May 30, 2024, and they had noted that the wind caused the secondary line to strike against itself, generating a spark that ignited the grass/scrub on the hillside. Crews pruned trees growing near the secondary lines increasing clearances. The VM investigator patrolled five spans in each direction and noted that a residential oak scrub was performed only. No additional trees were identified or needed to be worked during the inspection.

A query into the VM database lists the last Routine Pre-Inspection Patrol of that area prior to the incident as taking place on January 17, 2024. The completion date for the last planned routine tree work was April 16, 2024.

The Incident Location is located within an SRA (State Responsibility Area), and there is no record of any trees in the Tree Mortality (formerly known as CEMA) database. A proximity search was performed in the Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) database and no trees were within a 1/8-mile radius of the coordinates provided for this incident.

## System Protection Analysis

The Reservation Road 1101 12kV Distribution Circuit was not enabled with Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) at the time of the incident due to the Fire Potential Index (FPI) R1 conditions (expected wind speeds, relative humidity, and fuel moisture thresholds for the service area). Additionally, the incident occurred on the secondary voltage level which is incapable of being protected by EPSS.

## Ignition Impact

This ignition on May 24, 2024, resulted in a vegetation fire that was one acre in size. The associated outage from this fire affected a total of three customers for a total of 1,377 customer minutes. PG&E is not aware of any injuries, fatalities, media attention, or property damage associated with this ignition.

## Sequence of Events

May 24, 2024

- 1252 hours: First event - First No Light (FNL) – three customers affected by the outage.
- 1254 hours: Troubleshooter dispatched (Per FAS Record).
- 1256 hours: CAL FIRE dispatched.
- 1312 hours: Troubleshooter arrives onsite (Per FAS Record).
- 1437 hours: Transformer MTR# 1009817972 disconnected.
- 1515 hours: PG&E Repair crew dispatched.
- 1725 hours: PG&E Repair crew arrives onsite.
- 2031 hours: Transformer MTR# 1009817972 connected – all three customers' power restored.

## Corrective Notification Associated with Ignition

LC priority “A” Tag (#128888885) was created to replace a transformer and cutout on SAP Pole ID: 1001747581. The crew also adjusted and re-sagged the slack secondary conductors that slapped together between SAP Pole ID: 1001780037 (Load Side) and SAP Pole ID: 1001747581 (Source Side) resulting in the ignition of this incident. All repair work was completed by the PG&E Crew on May 24, 2024.

## 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		
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	January 1, 1963	Douglas Fir – Class 6 – Height 40’
Inspection:	May 14, 2022	GO165 Inspection – No declaration items reported

This report is preliminary and based on available information as of **July 11, 2024**; event data is subject to change based upon subsequently discovered information.

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Internal



	N/A	
Patrol:	N/A	
	N/A	
Corrective History:	May 24, 2024	LC priority "A" Tag (#128888885) was created to replace a Transformer and Cutout on SAP Pole ID: 1001747581. The crew also adjusted and re-sagged the slack conductors
Aerial Inspection Records:	June 25, 2019	SAP Pole ID 101747581 (Source side) No abnormal conditions visible.
VM Inspection:	January 12, 2024 – March 5, 2024	Date Ranges for last completed Routine Pre-Inspection Patrols.
EVM Inspection:	N/A	A proximity search was performed in the Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) database and no trees were within a 1/8-mile radius of the coordinates provided for this incident.
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	September 13, 2017	Passed with 92% wood strength
WSIP Inspection:	March 19, 2019	There were no compelling abnormal conditions reported

\*Incident Location: SAP Pole ID: 101747581

Load Side Structure		
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	January 1, 1963	Douglas Fir – Class 5 – Height 35'
Inspection:	May 14, 2022	GO165 Inspection – No declaration items reported
	N/A	
Patrol:	N/A	
	N/A	
Corrective History:	N/A	No corrective history was found.
Aerial Inspection Records:	June 25, 2019	SAP Pole ID 101747581 (Load side) No abnormal conditions visible.
VM Inspection:	January 12, 2024 – March 5, 2024	Date Ranges for last completed Routine Pre-Inspection Patrols.
EVM Inspection:	N/A	A proximity search was performed in the Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) database and no trees were within a 1/8-mile radius of the coordinates provided for this incident.
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	September 13, 2017	Passed with 91% wood strength
WSIP Inspection:	March 19, 2019	There were no compelling abnormal conditions reported

\*Incident Location: SAP Pole ID: 101780037

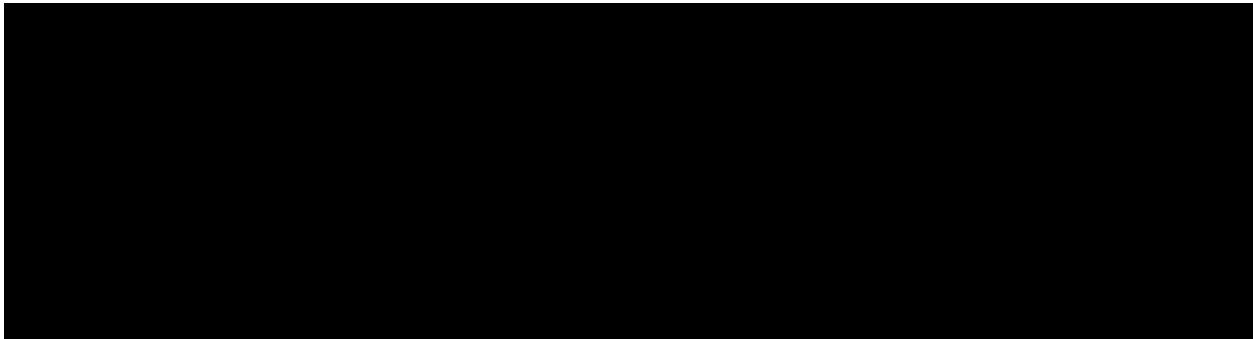
#### Hazard Barrier Analysis:





Hazard	Vegetation Contact	Sub-Hazard	Foliage (e.g., vine) Contact
Target	A tree branch that grew into a secondary causing a fire		
Barrier	Expected vs. Observed Performance	Why did the barrier not prevent the ignition event?	Opportunity
Barriers that Negatively Affected Ignition			
Distribution Annual Vegetation Patrol	Expected Performance: Identify vegetation that will encroach minimum distance requirements before the next annual work cycle; vegetation within minimum distance requirements; and for trees that may fall into or contact the line dead, decayed, or diseased trees, or dead, rotten, or diseased portions of otherwise healthy trees that overhang or lean toward the line; Observed Performance: Barrier did not perform as expected	[ A3B1C1D1 - Non-Conformance: Work Non-Conformance; Work Identification; Required work not identified ]	Secondary conductors are inspected for signs of strain or abrasion. The tree on this span obscured the line of sight to evaluate for strain or abrasion and standard practice should be to prune the tree to re-establish a line of sight to the conductor for vegetation and GO 165 inspectors.
Barriers that were Assessed as Opportunities			
Covered Overhead Secondary and Insulated Service Drop Cable	Expected Performance: Covered conductor should lower the risk of a wildfire; Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	[ A4B2C1D2 - Strategy: Program Strategies; Line Equipment-Related; Program limited to certain conductors ]	installation of covered conductors can potentially reduce ignitions for downed wires.

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

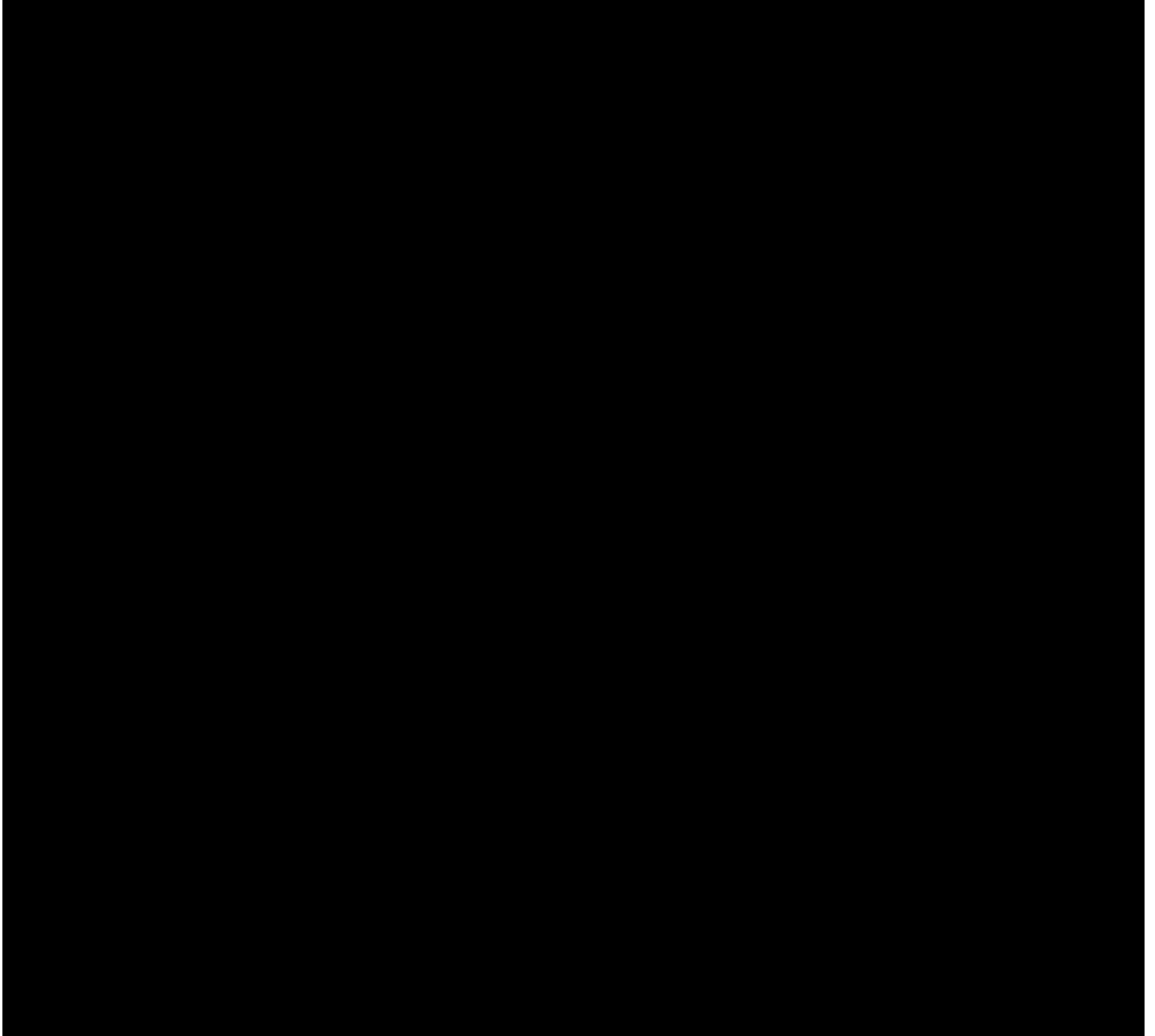
None at this time.

Single Line Diagram

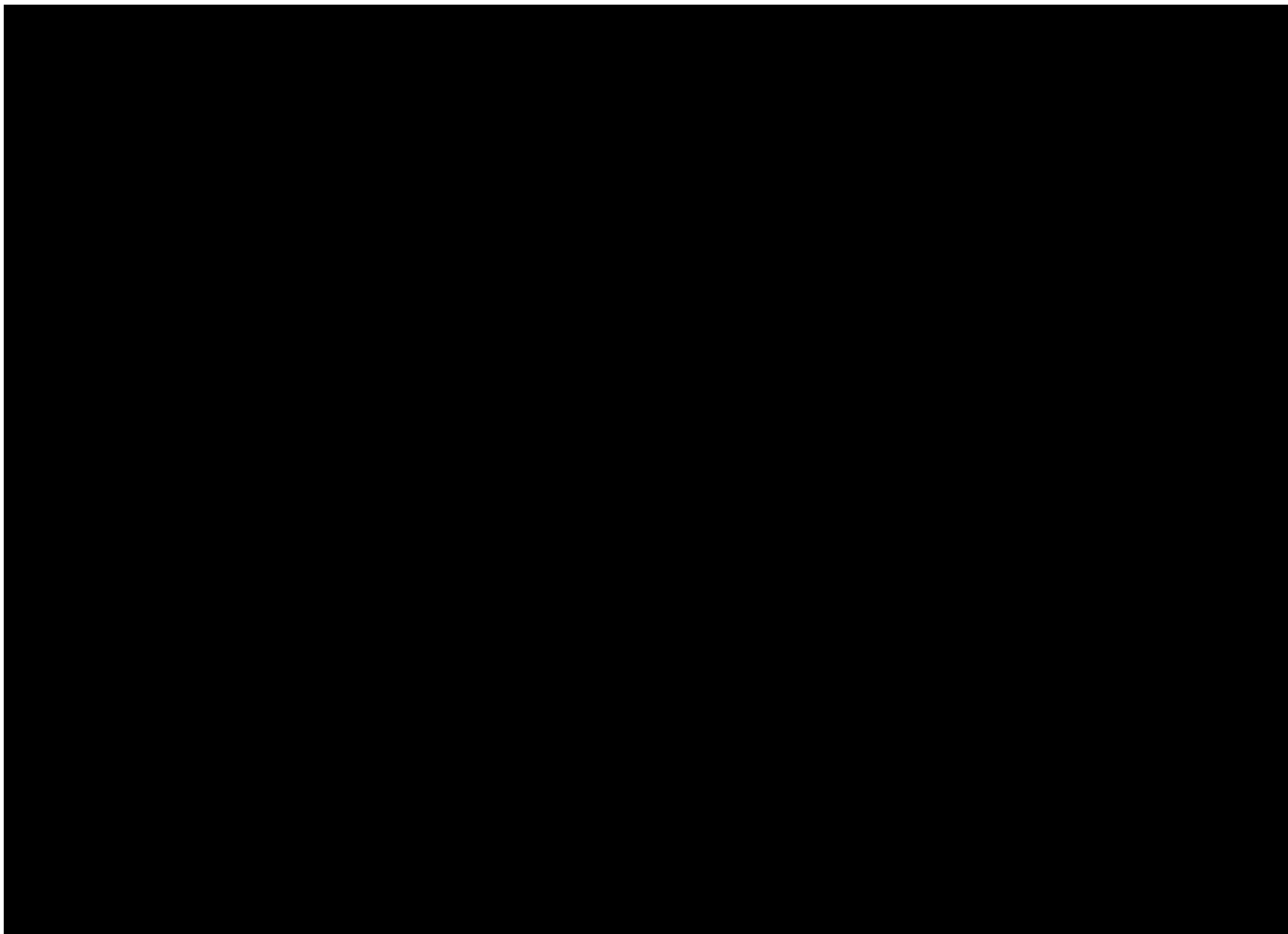


**LEGEND**  
 Substation  Fuse  Line Recloser  Area of Interest

Photos and Diagrams of Events



*Figure 1 - Google Earth Diagram of the Reservation Road Circuit. The location of the fire is approximate based on reports and pictures provided.*



*Figure 2 - EDGIS Diagram of the Reservation Road Circuit and upstream dynamic protective devices between the Substation and Incident location.*



*Figure 3 - Fire burn scar area with the Secondary conductors above. Please note, that the tree crew began trimming the vines and branches away from the conductors. Picture taken by the troubleshooter on May 24, 2024*





*Figure 4 – Ignition and fire origin area where the conductors slapped together leading to the cause of ignition. Picture taken by the troubleshooter on May 24, 2024.*





*Figure 5 - Secondary conductors going through the trees. Please note, that the tree crew planned on trimming the vines and branches away from the conductors after this picture was taken. Picture taken by the troubleshooter on May 24, 2024*





*Figure 6 – Monterey County CAL FIRE Department onsite to assist in controlling and suppressing the fire spread, picture taken by the troubleshooter on May 24, 2024.*



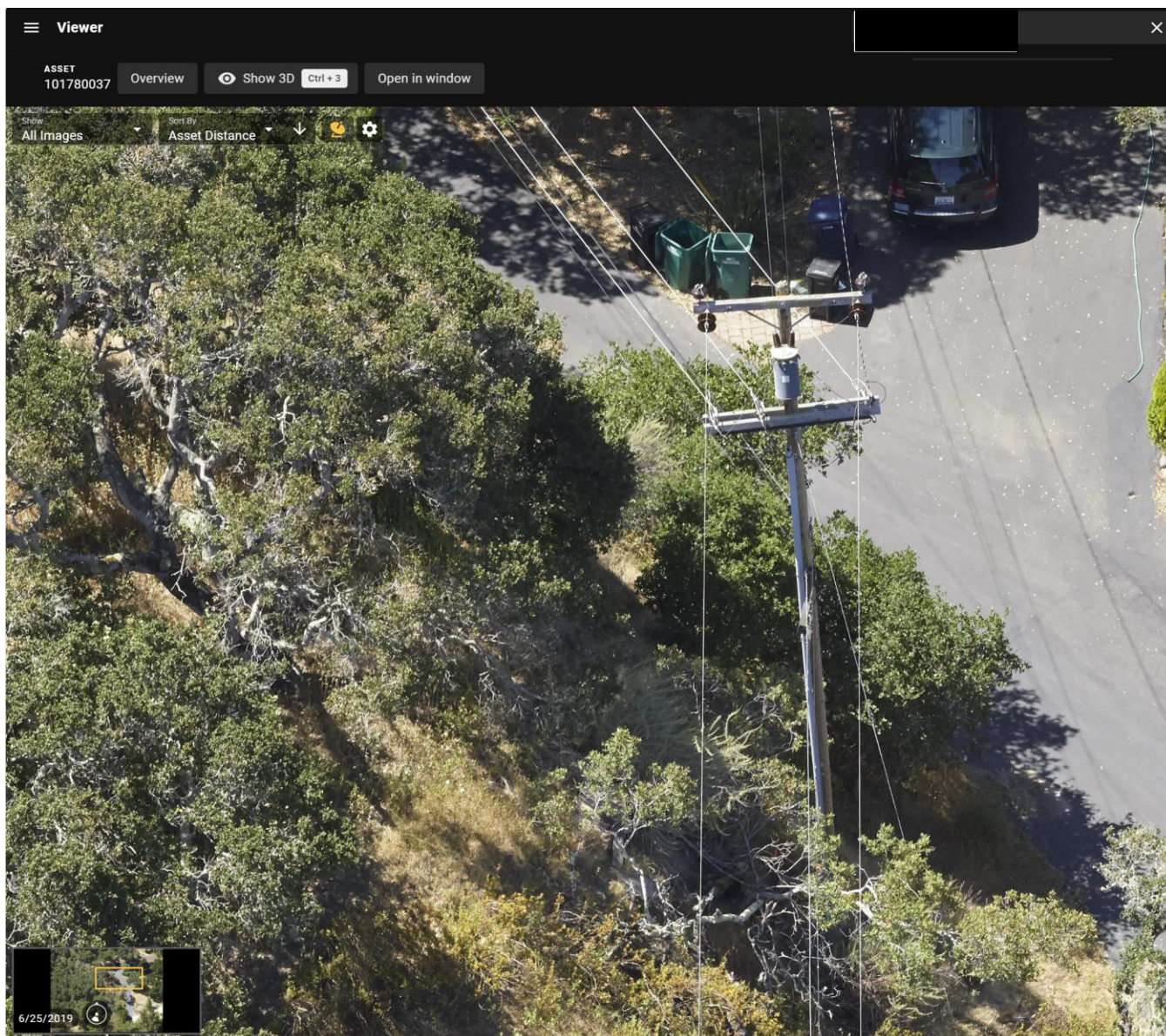


Figure 7 - SAP Pole ID: 101747581 (Source Side), picture taken from Shaper Shape dated June 25, 2019



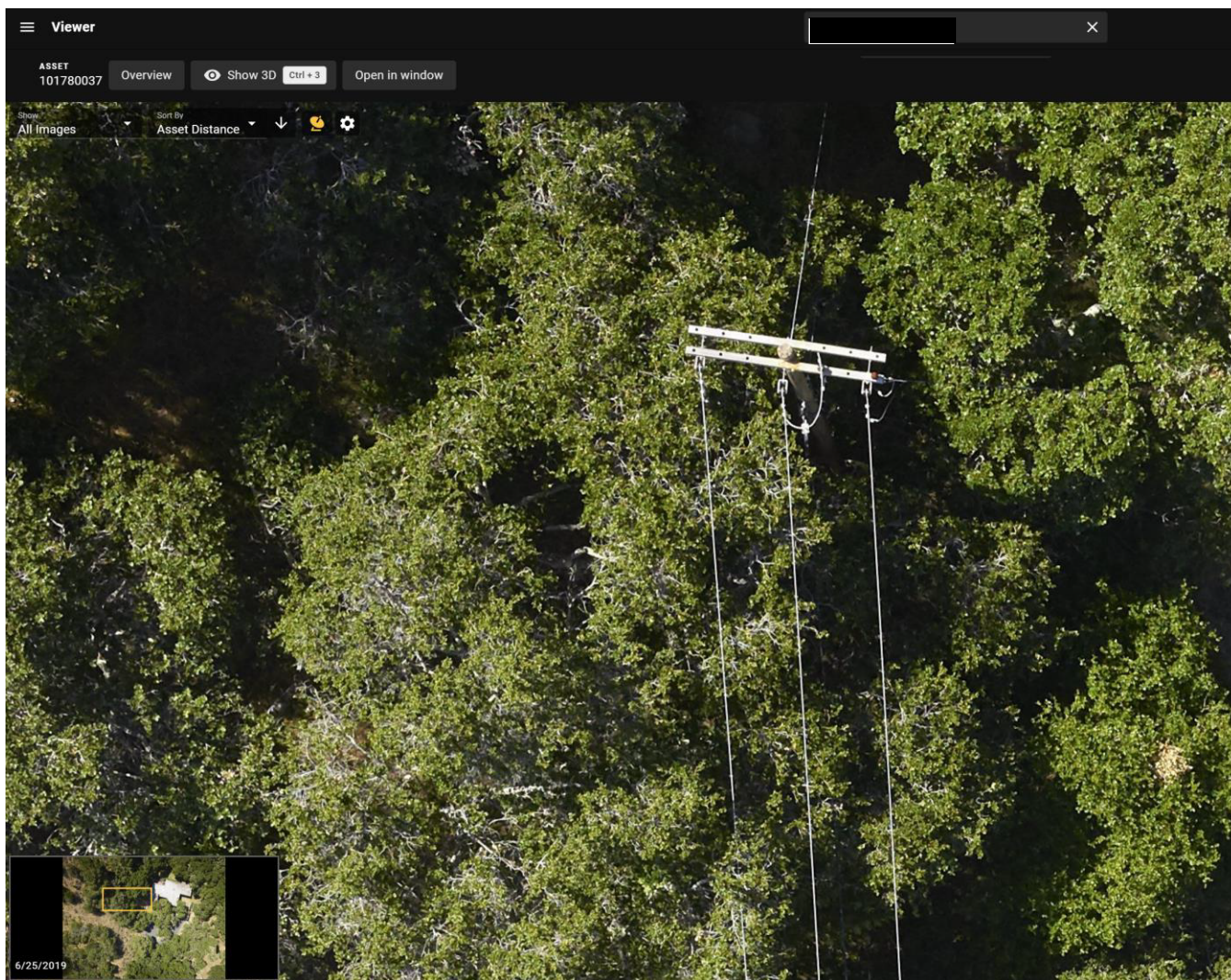


Figure 8 - SAP Pole ID: 101780037 (Load Side), picture taken from Shaper Shape dated June 25, 2019

## Attachments

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



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