



## Preliminary Ignition Investigation Report

Ignition Database Index:	20240922
Electric Incident Investigation (EII) Number:	N/A
Incident Name:	Irish Fire
PG&E Facility Ignition?	Yes
CPUC Reportable Ignition?	Yes
Date & Time of Incident:	July 11, 2024 @ 1316 hours
Street Address:	3980 Tunitas Creek Rd/10PSW
City:	Half Moon Bay
County:	San Mateo
Latitude/Longitude:	37.3960774596, -122.3651431923
State Responsibility Area (SRA) / Local Responsibility Area (LRA) / Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)	State Responsibility Area (SRA)
PG&E Division:	Peninsula
High Fire Threat District (HFTD):	Tier 3
High Fire Risk Area (HFRA):	Yes
EPSS Buffer:	No
Fire Index Area (FIA):	500
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:	Contact – 2nd Party (Davey Tree Surgery)
Failure Driver:	Contact from Object
Failure Sub-driver:	Contact – Vegetation
Circuit:	Half Moon Bay 1103
Circuit Protection Zone:	Half Moon Bay 1103157944
Nominal Voltage:	12kV
Pole SAP Equipment ID:	100270325
Subject to PRC 4292 Veg Pole Clearance:	Yes
PG&E Equipment associated with ignition:	4 Copper Conductor
EPSS enabled at time of ignition?	No
Fault Type:	Line to Ground
Wire Down (Primary)?	Yes
Lead Agency/Agency Having Jurisdiction:	CAL FIRE
Fire Size:	Approx 1/2 acre based on HAWK summary
FAS Field Remarks:	Primary wire down
HAWC Summary:	Resources responded to the Irish Fire Incident located on Lobitos Creed Rd near Tunitas Creek Rd

	<p>regarding a report of a vegetation fire. While the units were en route, Dispatch advised there were reports of power lines down. This incident is located in a Tier 2 area and in the immediate vicinity of Circuit HALF MOON BAY 1103 (Not EPSS enabled). I checked OMT for outages in the area and noticed several outages on Circuit HALF MOON BAY 1103. Below is a summary of those outages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OIS#: 2513546</li> <li>• OIS#: 2513822</li> <li>• OIS#: 2513832</li> <li>• OIS#: 2513844</li> <li>• OIS#: 2513847</li> <li>• OIS#: 2513859</li> </ul> <p>PSS advised via Teams Channel that per CAL Fire Dispatch, the fire consumed approximately (0.5) acres and the outage associated with this incident impacted a total of (34) customers.</p> <p>It should be noted that at approximately 1453 hours, A HAWC Analyst received a call on the HAWC Line from PGE Contractor (Davie Tree Surgery). [REDACTED] reported per PGE policy that one of their crews was involved in a tree strike which resulted in igniting this vegetation fire. The fire was estimated to be (0.5) acres and indicated this incident occurred at 1347 hours. As a result of this information, this incident meets the requirements of a EMER 4102-S Reportable Fire.</p> <p>HAWC Supervisor, and two PSS were notified about this incident. The DCC was also notified via email and phone call. As of this writing, SIPT did not respond to this incident and it is currently unknown what damage there was PG&amp;E assets. The pending FAS report will reveal any additional details regarding damage to PG&amp;E assets. Everbridge messages were not sent.</p>
<b>Injuries / Fatalities / Property Damage / Media Attention:</b>	No/No/No/No
<b>Weather Conditions:</b>	Conditions at 1340 hours near the Incident Location recorded a temperature 68.8°F with 70% relative humidity. Wind speeds were 5.2 mph out of the WNW with gusts to 9.6 mph.

<b>Red Flag Warning (RFW) / High Wind Warning (HWW):</b>	No
<b>911 Standby Relief Time:</b>	26 Minutes
<b>OIS #:</b>	2513832
<b>ILIS #:</b>	24-0086821
<b>FAS #:</b>	T006446241
<b>TOTL #:</b>	N/A
<b>Assigned Attorney:</b>	N/A
<b>Ignition Investigator &amp; Phone:</b>	[REDACTED]

## Executive Summary

On July 11, 2024, at 1316 hours PG&E SmartMeter™ data indicated an outage on the three phase, Half Moon Bay 1103 12kV OH Primary Distribution Circuit. At 1337 hours, PG&E received a 911 request from CAL FIRE to support a lines down fire near 3180 Lobitos Creek Rd. At 1344 hours, PG&E dispatched a troubleshooter to the along Tunitas Creek Ranch Rd, a Tier 3 HFTD in Half Moon Bay, CA. Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) were not enabled on the Half Moon Bay 1103 circuit at the time of the incident due to R1 conditions. A Davey Tree Surgery Vegetation Management (VM) contract crew performing work for PG&E felled a tree into conductors, causing a line to fall to the ground.

Upon arrival at approximately 1405 hours, the troubleshooter found CAL FIRE crews addressing the vegetation fire. The troubleshooter then patrolled the circuit, working with the distribution operator (DO) to isolate the outage and restore customers. The troubleshooter did not get to the Incident Location or observe the downed tree or line.

The downed line resulted in a 0.42-acre fire and an outage affecting 34 customers. By 1828 hours CAL FIRE had suppressed the fire and fire crews cleared the scene at 1128 hours.

On July 12, 2024, at 1640 hours, a PG&E repair crew completed repairs of the downed lines restoring power. At the time of this report there were two open electric corrective (EC) priority E notifications associated with the incident span. EC tag 121430701 was open for SAP pole ID 100270325 (load side) to adjust a loose guy and splice located too close to the insulator. EC tag 124099876 was created for SAP Pole ID 100270326 (source side) to repair loose hand ties and insulators that had turned sideways causing a wire to no longer lay in the groove of the insulator. The work identified on the open tags did not contribute to the ignition.

A Davey Tree Surgery investigation indicated a foreman instructed his team to remove multiple Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) trees blocking access to a prescribed removal of a 120-foot-tall coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). The removal of the trees blocking access to the redwood was unauthorized. In the process of removing one of the unauthorized trees, a limb from the Incident Tree removed crossed an adjacent tree restricting the intended path of fall causing the tree to spin and fall in an unintended direction. The tree fell into the primary conductors, causing a wire down and ignition.

A PG&E Vegetation Management inspector (VMI) performed a post-incident investigation on July 11, 2024. The (VMI) stated that a Davey Tree Surgery crew had cut three trees that were not on a work request to gain better access to a redwood tree prescribed for removal. In the process of removing a 14-inch DBH, 85-foot-tall Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), the tree twisted and made contact with the lines, bringing them down and started a fire.

Weather conditions at 1340 hours near the incident location recorded a temperature 68.8°F with 70% relative humidity. Wind speeds were 5.2 miles per hour (mph) out of the WNW with gusts to 9.6 mph.

The CAL FIRE investigation concluded the fire was caused by Davey Tree Surgery. The area of origin is defined as approximately a 10-foot by 10-foot diameter area where the downed Monterey pine tree came into contact with the energized powerlines. The fuel source was the pine tree and the naturally accumulated leaf litter and annual grasses. The heat source was the powerlines that produced arching and sparking, resulting in igniting a fire receptive fuel source. Total acreage in the State Responsible Area that burned was approximately 0.42 acres. Because the ignition was a result of a second party contractor and not a result of tree defect, VMI did not perform an extent of condition patrol for this incident.

## System Protection Analysis

The three phase, Half Moon Bay 1103 12kV Distribution Circuit was not EPSS enabled at the time of the incident due to the Fire Potential Index (FPI) R1 conditions.

## Ignition Impact

This ignition on July 11, 2024, resulted in a vegetation fire less than ½ acre as reported by the HAWC. PG&E is not aware of any injuries, fatalities, media attention, or property damage associated with this ignition. The CAL FIRE investigation report states no injuries or structures damaged or destroyed and the fire size was approximately 0.42 acres. The ignition caused an outage effecting 34 customers for a total of 48,108 total customer minutes.

## Sequence of Events

### On July 11, 2024

- 0830 hours - Davey Tree Surgery two-person crew arrived at the incident location.
- 1316 hours – Line recloser 825502 opens indicating the time of fault from line down event.
- 1328 hours – CAL FIRE first alarm time.
- 1337 hours - 911 call received for report of wires down, arcing sparked a grass fire.
- 1340 hours – Troubleshooter #1 dispatched to 911 call.
- 1350 hours – CAL FIRE arrived on scene.
- 1405 hours – Troubleshooter #1 begins patrol or area. They estimated they were on scene approximately 15 to 20 minutes prior to call with Distribution Operator (DO) at 1428 hours.
- 1428 hours - Troubleshooter checked in with DO stating he has been troubleshooting. Troubleshooter then manually opened LR157844 located below the incident location. He notified the DO that there was no cell coverage in the area and had called in from a customer land line.
- 1452 hours – Troubleshooter #2 arrived onsite.
- 1454 hours – Troubleshooter #1 manually closed Line Recloser 82552, restoring five customers.
- 1630 hours – A PG&E VMI conducted a vegetation management incident investigation.
- 1804 hours – Troubleshooter #1 manually opened Switch 150013 with no customers affected.
- 1828 hours – CAL FIRE stated they have control of the fire.

### On July 12, 2024

- 1134 hours – CAL FIRE cleared the scene.
- 1635 hours – Estimated time restoration work was completed.
- 1638 hours – Switch 157944 remotely closed by the DO restoring remaining 25 customers.

## Corrective Notification Associated with Ignition

EC priority “A” Tag 12911451 was created to repair lines down between SAP pole ID: 100270325 (load side) and SAP pole ID: 100270326 (source side) and four adjacent spans. All repair work was completed by a PG&E contract crew on July 12, 2024.

## Pending Work (call restoration supervisor to see if any open tag work was completed)

Type	Number	Description	Priority	Date Identified	Due Date
EC Notification	121430701	Guy loose at SAP pole ID 100270325, adjust. Splice in	E	5/27/2021	11/27/2021

		close proximity to insulator, adjust.			
EC Notification (SAP ID 100270326)	124099876	Hand ties have come loose, and insulators turned sideways. Wire is no longer lying in the groove of the insulator.	E	7/17/2022	01/17/2023
COE Notification		N/A			
LC Notification		N/A			
Veg Work Order	RX-01356295	Removal of 120' Redwood tree	Routine	2/2/2024	2/2/2025

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

\*Incident Location: Conductor spans between SAP Pole ID 100270325 to SAP Pole ID 100270326

### Asset Info & Most Recent Inspections and Tests

Source Side Structure	Pole #2: SAP Pole ID 100270325	
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	01/01/1976	Lodgepole Pine – Class 6 – Height 35'
Inspection:	07/17/2022	Conductor has splices tied in proximity to insulator preventing free movement of splice with conductor.
	05/27/2021	Necessary guys missing or loose. Create EC tag for Guy, Loose, Adjust. Conductor, Clearance Impaired, Adjust
Patrol:	10/01/2023	No Findings
	08/09/2019	No Findings
Corrective History:	N/A	
Aerial Inspection Records:	N/A	
VM Inspection:	2/2/2024	
EVM Inspection:	N/A	
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	7/8/2022	Inspection Result: Pass
WSIP Inspection:	04/15/2019	Unable to gain access to pole.

\*Incident Location: SAP Pole ID: 100270325

Load Side Structure	Pole #1: SAP Pole ID: 100270325 (	
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	01/01/1964	Lodgepole Pine – Class 6 – Height 35'
Inspection:	07/17/2022	Hand or preform tie wire broken, damaged, burnt, loose, showing signs of wearing, missing, or missing armor rod. EC Notification: Tie Wire, Broken/Damaged, Replace.



	05/27/2021	Pole leaning or out of plumb by more than 10% of its height above the ground. Necessary guys missing or loose. Anchor rod broken, damaged, corroded, covered by vegetation/overgrown, soil-eroded, graded, or buried. Pending EC tag 117214192
Patrol:	10/01/2023	There were no compelling abnormal conditions reported
	08/09/2019	There were no compelling abnormal conditions reported
Corrective History:	N/A	
Aerial Inspection Records:	N/A	
VM Inspection:	2/2/2024	Prescribed trees identified for removal
EVM Inspection:	N/A	
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	09/12/2016	Passed with 99% wood strength
WSIP Inspection:	05/11/2019	Pole leaning more than 10%. Create EC Notification

\*Incident Location: SAP Pole ID: 100270326

#### Hazard Barrier Analysis:

Hazard	Second-Party Contact	Sub-Hazard	Fallen Tree
Target	Fallen tree branch causing broken conductor		
Barrier	Expected vs. Observed Performance	Why did the barrier not prevent the ignition event? (See <a href="#">ICF Codes</a> )	Opportunity
Barriers that Negatively Affected Ignition			
Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings - Instantaneous Trip Settings	Expected Performance: EPSS Settings when enabled would reduce the likelihood of ignition from downed lines  Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist	A4B1C1D1 – Conditions did not meet EPSS enablement criteria	Weather conditions did not meet EPSS criteria for enablement
Vegetation Management Tree Pruning, Dismantling, and Felling Operations	Expected Performance: Mitigate hazards to avoid obstacles in the felling path.  Observed Performance: Barrier did not perform as expected	A3B1C2D3 – Work not performed in accordance to standard	Contractors failed to identify and remove potential snag branches that caused the tree to catch an adjacent tree and spin in an unintended direction into the lines. The worker performed unprescribed, unnecessary work outside of their scope.

### Potential Next Steps / Associated CAP Items:

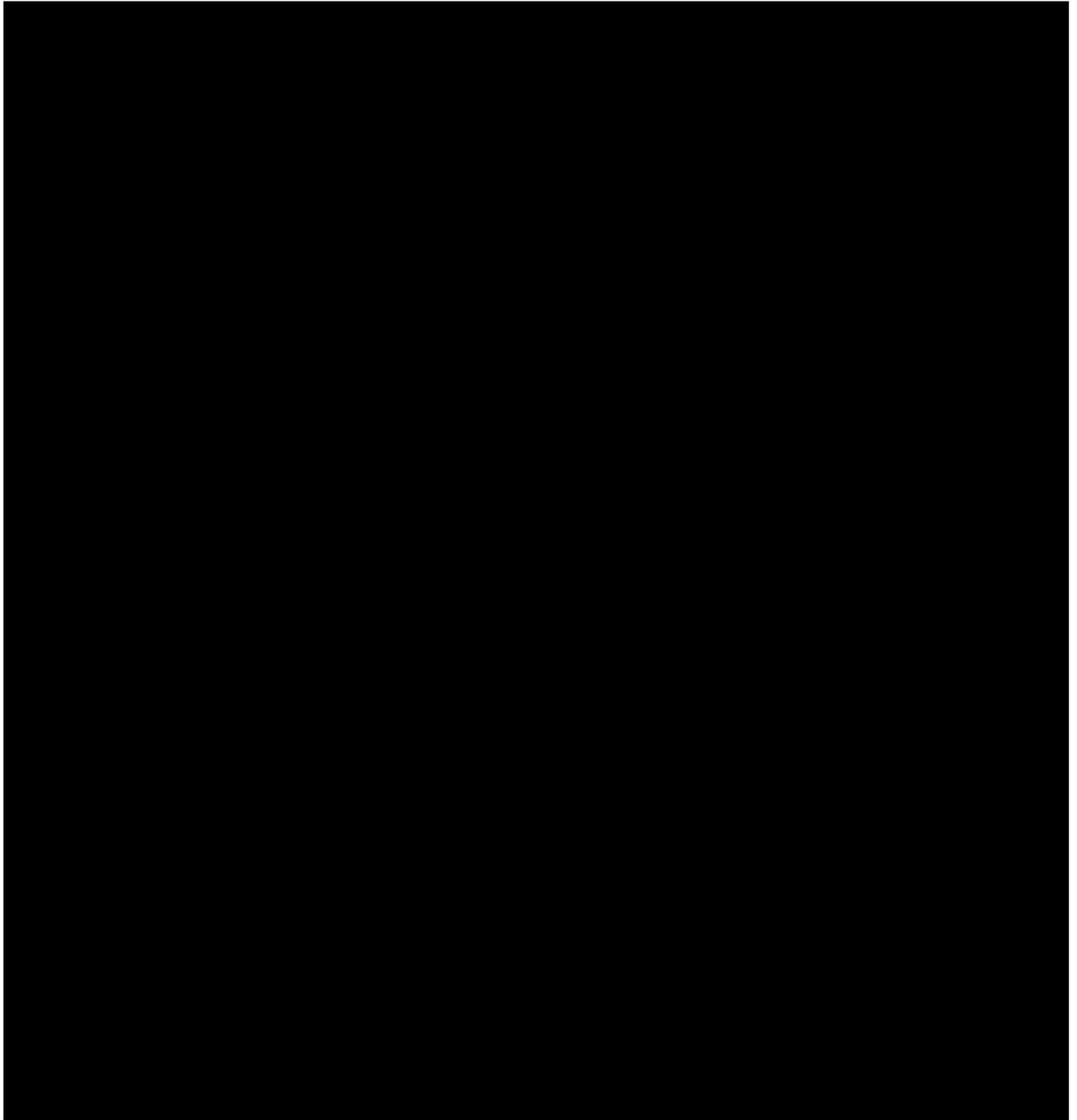
Davey Tree Surgery performed an independent investigation into this incident and took direct corrective action that they deemed necessary.

Davey Tree Surgery also conducted safety communication with their territory workforce regarding the incident identifying the causes and contributing causes with corrective actions focusing on the following specific information:

- PG&E Essential Control Training - Felling a Tree – landing zone and fall path clear.
- Incident Awareness Training – Cause Evaluation review of the incident with territory workforce.
- Risk Assessment (Site & Tree) – Identify hazards such as utility wires, trees or other obstacles that may be struck by the falling tree. All adjacent trees shall be considered to determine if there is risk of an obstructed fall path.
- Administrative Controls with trees located within M.A.D. – All trees prescribed to be worked located within M.A.D. Shall be identified and communicated with local management for work process approval. i.e., deenergize, aerial lift utilization, or alternative work method planning and confirmation.



## Photos and Diagrams of Events



*Figure 1: EDGIS Map of Incident Location*



*Figure 2: Google Earth Image of Incident Location*

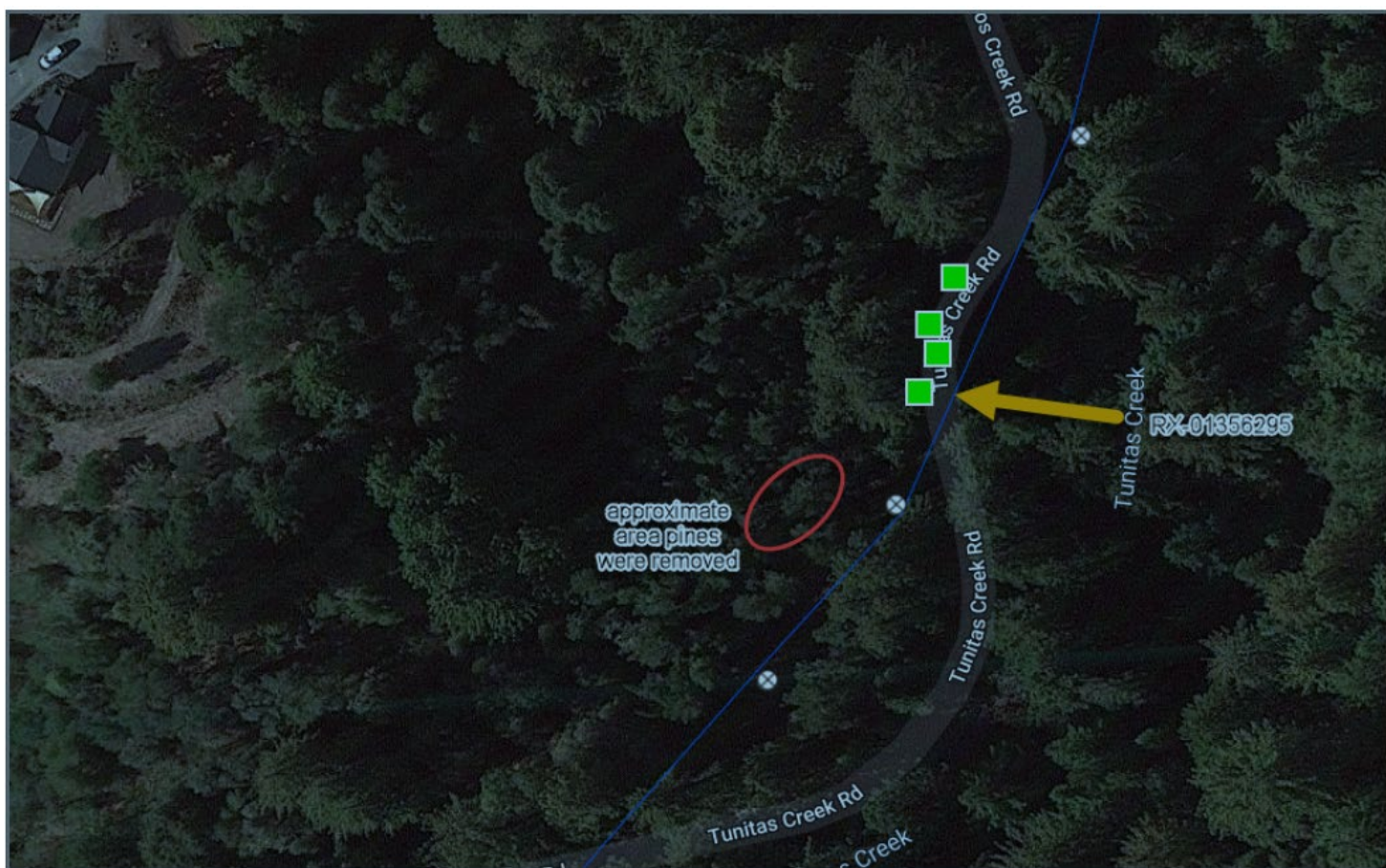


Figure 3: Vegetation Management exhibit showing location of prescribed trees for removal (green) and location of unauthorized fell location of incident tree.





Figure 4: 2022 Inspection photo of upper 1/3 of SAP 100270326





Figure 5: Additional 2022 Inspection photo of SAP 100270326





Figure 6: 2022 Inspection Photo of top 1/3 of SAP 100270325





Figure 7: Additional 2022 Inspection photo of SAP 100270325



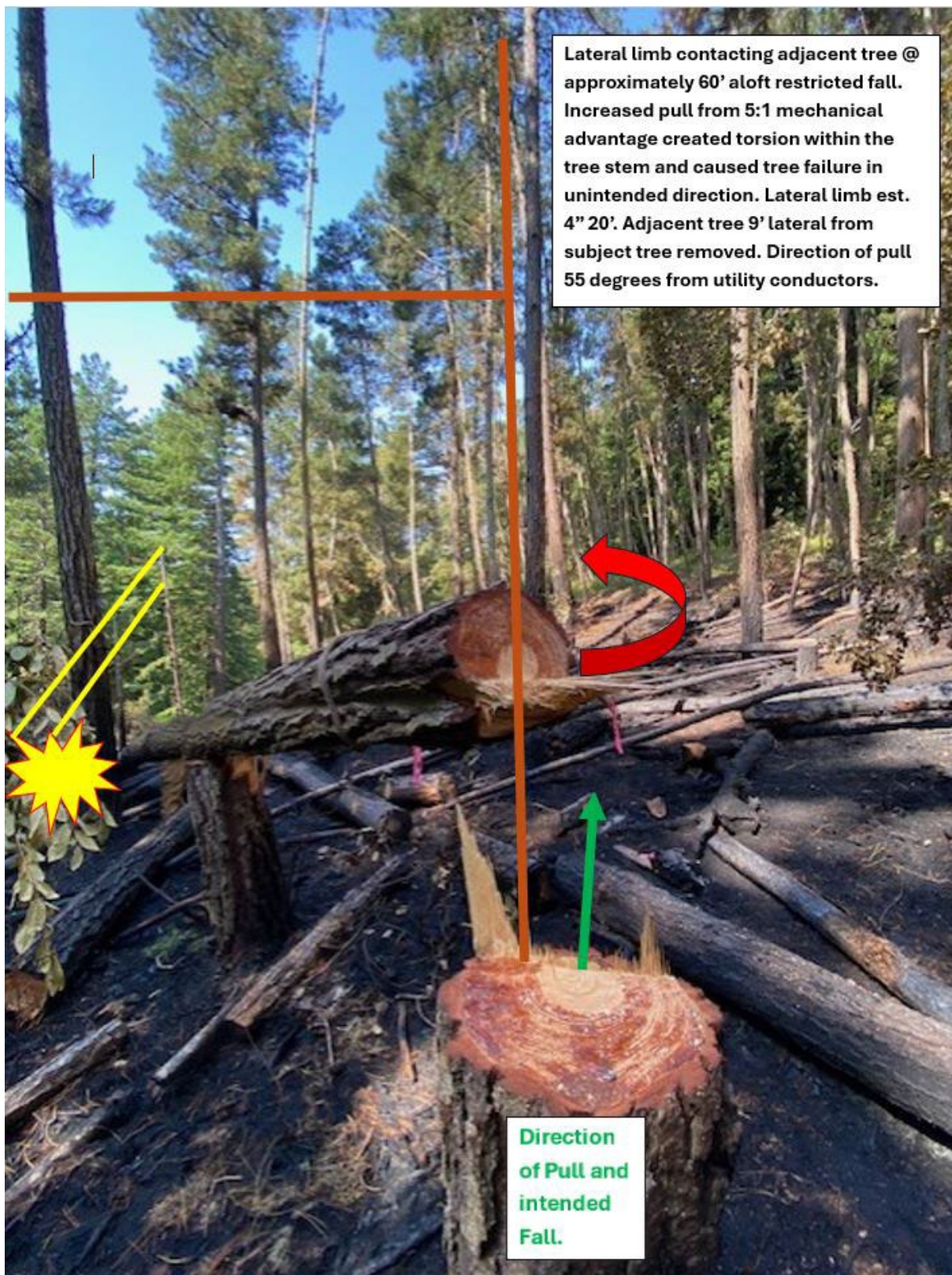


Figure 8: Photo exhibit from Davey Tree Surgery Causal Evaluation showing incident tree's intended fall vs actual fall direction.

## Attachments and References

Attachments and references can be located in the ESA folder, located [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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