



Preliminary Ignition Investigation Report

Ignition Database Index:	20241325
Electric Incident Investigation (EII) Number:	N/A
Incident Name:	N/A
PG&E Facility Ignition?	Yes
CPUC Reportable Ignition?	Yes
Date & Time of Incident:	September 12, 2024 @ 1200 hours
Street Address:	Alpine Road north of Alpine Oaks Road
City:	La Honda
County:	San Mateo
Latitude/Longitude:	37.2933948469, -122.2342660728
State Responsibility Area (SRA) / Local Responsibility Area (LRA) / Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)	State Responsibility Area
PG&E Division:	Peninsula
High Fire Threat District (HFTD):	Tier 2
High Fire Risk Area (HFRA):	Yes
EPSS Buffer:	No
Fire Index Area (FIA):	520
Fire Potential Index (FPI) Rating: FIA	R3
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:	Menlo 1103
Circuit Protection Zone:	Menlo 1103 LR8512
Nominal Voltage:	12kV
Pole SAP Equipment ID:	100311049
Subject to PRC 4292 Veg Pole Clearance:	Yes
PG&E Equipment associated with ignition:	#6 Copper Conductor
EPSS enabled at time of ignition?	Yes
Fault Type:	Line to Ground
Wire Down (Primary)?	Yes
Lead Agency/Agency Having Jurisdiction:	CAL FIRE
Fire Size:	3 meters – 0.25 acres
FAS Field Remarks:	SAP ID #100311049, WIRE DOWN

HAWC Summary:	N/A
Injuries / Fatalities / Property Damage / Media Attention:	No injuries, fatalities, property damage or media attention
Weather Conditions:	At 1200 hours near the incident location: Temperature: 73.9°F Relative Humidity: 46% Wind Speed: 2.0 mph Wind Gust: 7.3 mph out of the south-southeast
Red Flag Warning (RFW) / High Wind Warning (HWW):	No Red Flag warning or High Wind Warning
911 Standby Relief Time:	N/A
OIS #:	2566602, 2566746
ILIS #:	24-011393
FAS #:	T006498906
TOTL #:	N/A
Assigned Attorney:	N/A
Ignition Investigator & Phone:	██████████ ██████████

Executive Summary

On September 12, 2024 at approximately 1203 hours PG&E received notification of a 911 standby request for a downed power line and a grass fire where one customer experienced a power outage. At 1204 hours a PG&E troubleshooter was dispatched to the Menlo 1103 circuit investigate the incident further.

The Menlo 1103 circuit is a two-phase, primary overhead, 12kV distribution circuit with #6 copper conductor near the Incident Location. This incident occurred in Tier 2 High Fire Threat District (HFTD) and a High Fire Risk Area (HFRA). PG&E's Enhanced Powerline Safety Setting (EPSS) were enabled on the Menlo 1103 as of June 17, 2024 due to the increased risk of fire.

The troubleshooter arrived on Alpine Road, west of Alpine Oaks Road in La Honda at 1236 hours. Upon arrival the troubleshooter identified a failed tree branch that had fallen onto the conductor causing the one span of energized conductor to break. The energized conductor fell to the ground igniting a vegetation fire. CAL FIRE provided suppression efforts to a fire under 0.25 acres in size.

The troubleshooter contacted the Distribution Operator (DO) at 1345 hours to request to open fuse 1115 to de-energize the downed power line. The opening of this fuse caused six additional customers to lose power while repairs were being made. At 1430 hours fuse 10987 was opened to isolate a single customer with a generator to prevent any damages to customer owned equipment.

At 1656 hours a repair crew was requested to make repairs through a corrective "A" tag, EC Notification number 129525337. The PG&E maintenance crew was onsite and repaired one span, approximately 300 feet of #6 copper conductor. Repairs were completed on September 12, 2024 at 2036 hours. At 2228 hours fuse 10987 was closed. At 2229 fuse 1115 was closed, which restored seven customers.

On September 13, 2024 a Vegetation Management (VM) fire incident investigation and extent of conditions (XoC) patrol were performed. The subject tree was identified as a California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) that measured 23 inches diameter in breast height (DBH) and 65 feet in height. The partial failure was identified occurring 4.5 feet above ground level. The inspector identified the tree as dead or dying due to signs of decay along with black pustules, sloughing bark, termite/beetle frass in the trunk, a dead crown and a large old wound at the base of the tree.

The tree was last inspected by VM's routine maintenance program on August 16, 2024 and identified as dead at that time. The tree was prescribed for major dismantling work with a routine priority; however, the pending tag was descope after this failure occurred.

It was a fair and dry day on September 12th, 2024 near the Incident Location. The high temperature for the day was 76.5°F at 1250 hours and the low temperature was 52.4°F at 0740 hours. The relative humidity was as high as 100% from 0000 hours to 0840 hours and as low as 43% at 1230 hours. The strongest wind speed was 9.2 miles per hour (mph) out of the north-northwest at 1500 hours. This data was taken from a MesoWest station that was at an elevation of 1159 feet and approximately 0.4 miles southwest of the Incident Location.

System Protection Analysis

The Menlo 1103 circuit was equipped with EPSS enabled devices at the time of incident. The nearest protection device, LR 8512 was set in alternate three mode with sensitive ground fault enabled settings. LR 8512 is not downed conductor detection (DCD) capable. Settings for LR were set it 180 amps to trip, 60 amps ground trip and sensitive ground fault 15 amps to trip. There were no events recorded on LR 8512 during the incident, and it did not show any indications of a fault or power prior to the troubleshooter's arrival. LR 8512 did not operate as

designed. After investigating the incident further, a proposal was made to have LR 8512 changed to a Beckwith M-7679 which will also have DCD capabilities (Notification 129717204, due December 01, 2025)

Ignition Impact

A California bay tree failed and fell onto the 12kV conductor causing a fire under 0.25 acres in size. Due to the weight of the tree, the conductors broke upon impact causing power lines to fall to the ground. CAL FIRE responded to the incident and extinguished a vegetation fire. An outage occurred affecting one customer for 636 minutes. Six additional customers were impacted by an area outage due to repair work. These six customers were without power for 534 minutes.

Sequence of Events

September 12, 2024

- 1203 hours – First No Light recorded for one customer without power
- 1204 hours – Troubleshooter dispatched
- 1236 hours – Troubleshooter onsite
- 1345 hours - Fuse 1115 opened, six customers out of power for repairs (seven total)
- 1430 hours – Fuse 10987 opened
- 1656 hours – Repair crew requested
- 2228 hours – Repair crew completed wire down repair, fuse 10987 closed
- 2239 hours – Fuse 1115 closed, seven customers power restored

Corrective Notification

A priority “A” tag, EC Notification 129525337 was created to replace one span of #6 copper because of a tree branch falling and breaking the existing conductor. A PG&E repair crew was onsite on September 12, 2024 and repaired one span of #6 copper conductor to the impacted location.

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:	1988	Class 4, 45' Douglas Fir Wooden Pole
Inspection:	07/08/2023	GO165 Inspection
	04/26/2021	GO165 Inspection
Patrol:	06/28/2020	No abnormal conditions identified

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Corrective History:	04/27/2021	tag to remove branch off the conductor, tag cancelled
Aerial Inspection Records:	07/19/2022	No abnormal conditions identified
VM Inspection:	08/16/2024	Dead incident tree prescribed for removal
EVM Inspection:	N/A	
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	11/21/2016	No abnormal conditions identified
WSIP Inspection:	N/A	

*Incident Location: SAP ID: 100311049

Load Side Structure		
Info / Inspection	Most Recent Date	Findings
Install Date:	2021	Class 5, 40' Douglas Fir Wooden Pole
Inspection:	07/24/2023	GO165 Inspection – Vegetation overgrown
	04/26/2021	GO165 Inspection – corroded anchor, EC Tag created
Patrol:	06/28/2020	No abnormal conditions identified
Corrective History:	07/24/2023	Trim branches growing into primary down guy. Tag is still pending due date 07/24/2024
Aerial Inspection Records:	07/19/2022	No abnormal conditions identified
VM Inspection:	06/16/2024	<i>*see note under incident pole above</i>
EVM Inspection:	N/A	
Equipment Test:	N/A	
Pole Intrusive Test:	11/21/2016	No abnormal conditions identified
WSIP Inspection:	N/A	

*Adjacent Location: SAP ID: 100267349

Hazard Barrier Analysis:

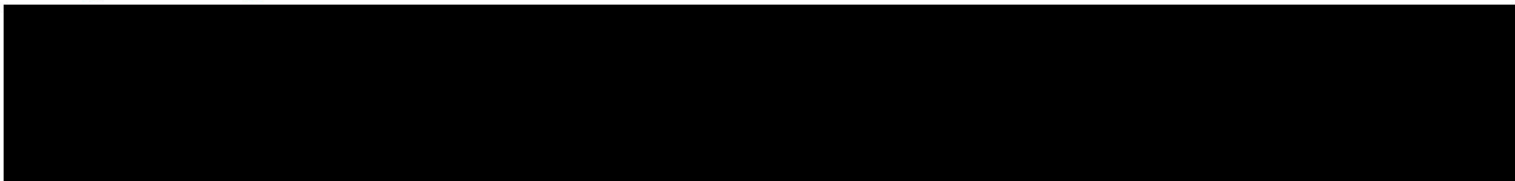
Hazard	Vegetation Contact	Sub-Hazard	Fallen Branch
Target	Fallen branch leading to downed conductor in Tier 2 HFTD.		
Barrier	Expected vs. Observed Performance	Why did the barrier not prevent the ignition event? (See ICF Codes)	Opportunity
Barriers that Negatively Affected Ignition			

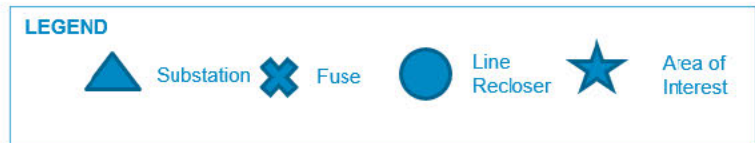
Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings - Sensitive Ground Fault Settings	<p>Expected Performance: Automatically turn off power when a high impedance fault condition is detected.</p> <p>Observed Performance: Barrier did not perform as expected</p>	A2B2C2D1 – EPSS did not trip in response to ground fault	EPSS did not open as it did not detect an event on the line
Barriers that were Assessed as Opportunities			
Level 2 Basic Tree Assessment	<p>Expected Performance: Arborists walk completely around a tree and look for defects in all visible areas of a tree.</p> <p>Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist</p>	N/A	Inspection in August 2024 found tree was decayed and needed removal. A level 2 inspection could identify if we need to escalate the removal for a potential strike tree
Covered Conductor on Primary Conductors	<p>Expected Performance: Covered conductor should lower the risk of a wildfire.</p> <p>Observed Performance: Barrier did not exist</p>	A2B2C1D2 – Program limited to certain conductors	Area currently has copper wire. This is a Tier 2, HFRA heavily vegetated area. Tree wire should be considered
Other Relevant Barriers			
Distribution Annual Vegetation Patrol	<p>Expected Performance: Identify dead or dying trees and prescribe for work.</p> <p>Observed Performance: Barrier Performed as Expected</p>	N/A	Tree was Identified for removal during annual inspection. Tree failed 27 days post inspection

Potential Next Steps / Associated CAP Items:

- LR 8512 will be updated to a Beckwith M-7679 which will also have DCD capabilities. (49A Project Code)

Single Line Diagram





Photos and Diagrams of Events

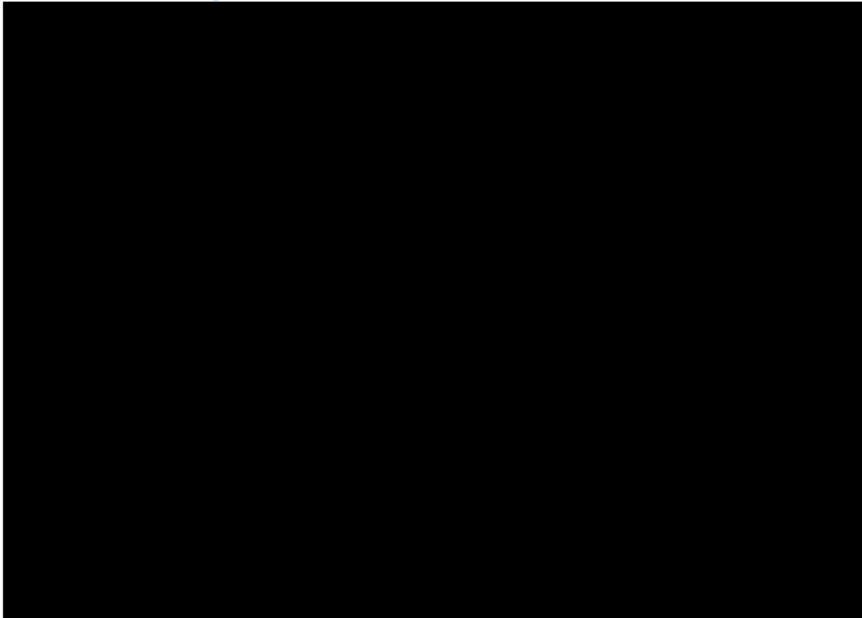


Figure 1 – EDGIS image of Incident Location.

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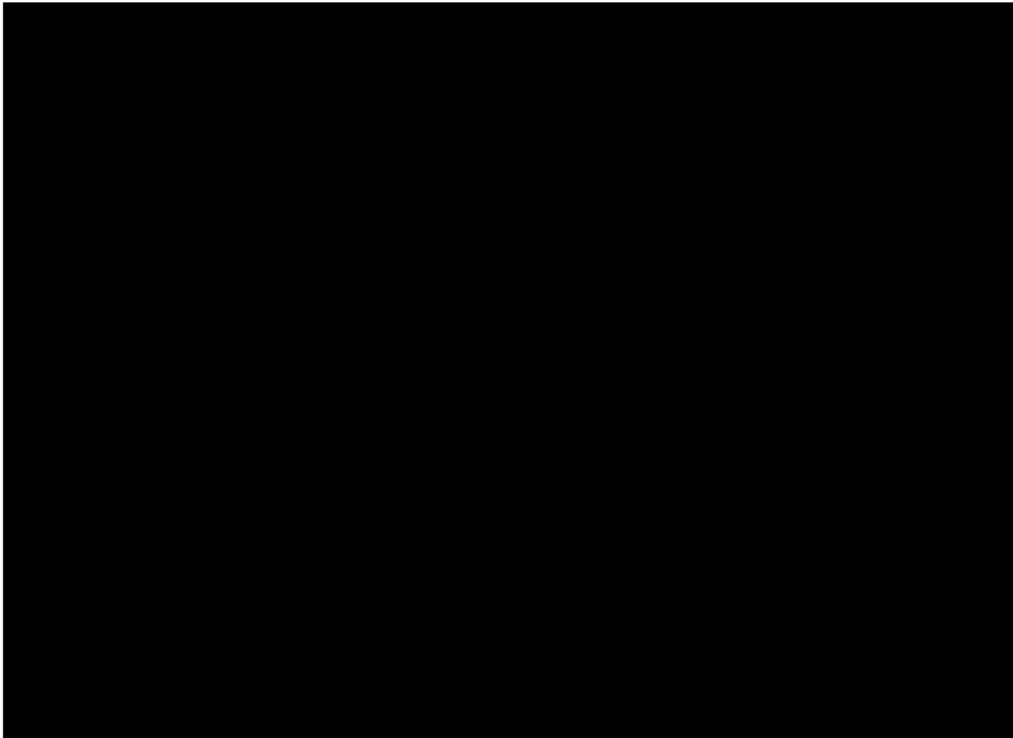


Figure 2 – Google Image of Incident Location.



Figure 3 – Troubleshooter photo of Incident Pole taken 08/16/24



Figure 4 – Troubleshooter photo of adjacent pole, taken 08/16/24.



Figure 5 – Troubleshooter photo of downed tree branch on 08/16/24.



Figure 6 – Troubleshooter photo of fire footprint, taken 08/16/24



Figure 7 – Post incident photo taken by VM team, 09/13/24 showing hypoxylon cankers, missing bark, an old wound and termite damage



Figure 8 – Post incident photo taken by VM team, 09/13/2024 showing failed portion of tree. The break point is hollow indicating rot.



Figure 8 – Post incident photo taken by VM team 09/13/2024, showing linear cracks and fungus on bark.

Attachments

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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