

Vegetation Management Wood Management Program

SUMMARY

This utility standard provides the requirements for Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Vegetation Management (VM) Wood Management (WM) program. The WM program chips, relocates, or hauls away wood resulting from trees worked by PG&E VM activities. The WM program is implemented in a manner that ensures site safety and environmental compliance after VM tree work activities. It supports landowners/land managers by helping to resolve potential challenges associated with defensible space requirements and wood generated by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) VM activities. WM may be offered upon request on qualifying programs.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Vegetation Asset Strategy and Analytics (VASA)
- WM Operations
- VM Operations
- Wood Management Contractors (WMC)
- Quality Control (QC)

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REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

1 Property Owner Requirements and Expectations

1.1 State of California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4291

1. PRC 4291 describes defensible space requirements for structures “in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, shrub-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material.”

1.2 California Code of Regulation (CCR) Title 14 Section 1299.03

1. 14 CCR 1299.03 requires that defensible space be maintained “whenever flammable vegetative conditions exist.” Defensible space requirements depend on the “Zone,” with Zone 1 extending 30 feet from a structure and Zone 2 extending 30 to 100 feet from a structure within the property line.
2. 14 CCR 1299.03(c)(1) states that outbuildings and liquid propane gas storage tanks shall have a minimum of 10 feet clearance to the bare mineral soil and no flammable vegetation for an additional 10 feet around their exterior.

NOTE

Execution must follow all applicable laws and regulations to conduct this work.

2 PG&E Requirements and Expectations

2.1 PG&E Conformance Requirements

1. The WM program works to ensure conformance with [PG&E virtues and stands](#).

2.2 PG&E Safety Requirements

1. PG&E staff and contract workers performing wood management activities must comply with approved safety plans and review all applicable safety standards and procedures before performing work, including fire avoidance and minimization measures, or else work must be stopped. See [TD-7101M, “Vegetation Management Safe Work Practices,”](#) for additional information.
2. PG&E staff and contract workers performing wood management activities are responsible for implementing applicable best management practices (BMPs), such as, but not limited to, those found in [TD-7102P-01-JA01, “Best Management Practices \(BMP\) for Vegetation Management.”](#)
3. WM activity must not create a safety hazard or cause substantial environmental or physical damage.

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2.3 Requirements for Qualifying Wood for the WM Program

1. The qualifying criteria for the WM Program are defined in Table 1, “WM Qualifying Criteria.”

NOTE

If wood generated by PG&E line clearance activities poses an immediate safety, environmental, cultural, or access concern, then Tree Crews (TCs) should perform WM at the time of tree work.

Table 1. WM Qualifying Criteria

Instructions	Criteria
<p>1. IF these criteria are met, THEN the wood may qualify for the WM program.</p> <p>To view the current list of VM programs that can offer WM in response to customer requests, access the WM Quick Reference Guide located on the Central Wood Management SharePoint page.</p>	<p>Qualifying Criteria consistent with PRC 4291 ALL of the following must be true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetative material must be greater than or equal to 4 inches in diameter. • Vegetative material must be accessible and operable with standard WM equipment and located on slopes generally less than 30% grade. • The wood must have been generated by PG&E VM activities • The landowner/land manager must opt-in to the WM program via a signed Permission Form that is located on the CWM SharePoint page or CoreShare. <p><u>AND</u> at least one of the following must be true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The vegetative material is located within 100 ft. of a human inhabitable structure, structure footprint, or campsite. b. The vegetative material is located within 15 ft. of the access road to a human inhabitable structure, structure footprint, or campsite. c. The vegetative material is located within 15 ft. of an outbuilding or propane tank. d. Other agreements have been established to manage the vegetative material.

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Instructions	Criteria
<p>IF these criteria are met, THEN it does NOT qualify for the WM program.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vegetative material is less than 4 inches in diameter and is classified as debris. 2. Wood that is NOT the result of PG&E VM activities (e.g., private work, Caltrans, local Fire Safe Council projects, County Roads department, CalOES, etc.) 3. Vegetative material that falls outside the distances as described in a., b., and c. (SEE the table cell above).

2.4 WM Work Practices

1. The WMC who performs the work must consider the following: public and coworker safety, equipment capability and site conditions (e.g., slope, obstacles, riparian area, etc.).
 - a. In all cases, PG&E has the final authority to determine whether or not work will be performed.
2. Landowner/land manager preferences should guide the selection of the appropriate WM prescription; Manipulate or Remove and Haul.
3. Prescriptions should align with unit rate work.
4. Landowner/land manager requests for work beyond the unit rate scope should be escalated appropriately to local VM or CWM leadership. For example:
 - Firewood length wood should NOT be offered.
 - Wood should NOT be relocated beyond 100 feet from original location or outside the parcel boundaries.
5. The WMC must determine the means and methods for wood management.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 The VM and WM Operations teams are responsible for execution of the WM program.
- 3.2 The VASA team supports Scope of Work development, when needed.
- 3.3 WMCs are responsible for conducting wood management construction activities in the field.
- 3.4 The QC program monitors contractor work for accuracy, contractual conformance, and financial performance.

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3.5 Safety observations are conducted in accordance with the applicable safety standards, procedures, and safety plans for wood management.

4 Planning and Scheduling

4.1 Wood management must be planned, scheduled, and prioritized according to need based on the following three timelines:

- **Safety Exceptions:** Wood resulting from PG&E Vegetation Management activities that creates a potential safety, access or environmental concern should be managed at the time of tree work, regardless of program.
- **Expedited Priority:** Wood resulting from PG&E Vegetation Management activities that are associated with customer or agency escalations or relevant ordinances. Wood management is conducted in an appropriate timeline sooner than Routine Priority.
- **Routine Priority:** Wood management work is planned and scheduled in accordance with the corresponding VM program timelines and available resources.

NOTE

VISIT the [Constraints Management SharePoint](#) to read about constraints that may affect WM activities (such as environmental issues and encroachment permits).

VISIT the [Enterprise Public Works SharePoint](#) to learn about local agency permitting and agency liaison activities.

5 Records Management and Data Integrity

5.1 The WM program is required to document its work and to create and complete records per [Records and Information Management](#) in this standard.

END of Requirements

DEFINITIONS

Building or Structure: Any structure used for support or shelter of any use or occupancy. (From "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space," State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection)

Debris: Wood and post VM tree-work material less than 4 inches in diameter resulting from VM program work.

Landowner Release and Permission Form ("Permission Form"): Wood Management permission form signed by the landowner/land manager allowing PG&E to perform wood management.

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Standard Wood Management Equipment: Equipment used in wood management work, including, but not be limited to, grapple trucks, tracked or rubber-tired equipment, telescopic grapple equipment, skidders, track chippers, or self-feeding grinders.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Central Wood Management Team is responsible for the development and communication of this standard to WM Management personnel, as well as the periodic review of this standard. WM Management Leadership are responsible for providing training and communicating roll-out expectations to the superuser group, in addition to conducting regular reviews to ensure adherence.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

[Utility Policy: TD-05, "Vegetation Management"](#)

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT / REGULATORY COMMITMENT

[CPUC letter dated August 24, 2021](#)

[State of California Public Resources Code \(PRC\) 4291](#)

[California Code of Regulation \(CCR\) Title 14 Section 1299.03\(c\)\(1\)](#)

[United States Forest Service Agreements](#)

[National Park Service Agreements](#)

[Bureau of Land Management Agreements](#)

[California State Park Agreements](#)

[Caltrans State or Local Government Encroachment Permits](#)

[VM Best Management Practices #12](#)

Records and Information Management:

PG&E Data, Information, and Records are company assets that must be traceable, verifiable, accurate, and complete and can be retrieved upon request. Functional Areas are responsible for complying with the Information & Records Governance Policy, Standards, and the Information and Records Retention Schedule. Refer to [GOV-7101S, "Enterprise Records and Information Management Standard"](#) for further guidance or contact Information & Records Governance at Information&RecordsGovernance@pge.com.

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REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Developmental References:

NA

Supplemental References:

[TD-7101M, "Vegetation Management Safe Work Practices"](#)

[TD-7102P-01-JA01, "Best Management Practices \(BMP\) for Vegetation Management"](#)

[Wood and Debris Management on U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and California State Parks Lands](#)

[PG&E Vegetation Management Specification No. 5404 for Tree Pruning and Tree and Brush Removal](#)

APPENDICES

NA

ATTACHMENTS

NA

DOCUMENT REVISION

NA

DOCUMENT APPROVER

██████████, Director, Wood Management

In Concurrence:

██████████, Director, Vegetation Asset Strategy and Analytics

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REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
Entire Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated operating model (i.e., target audience names) throughout document. • Organized various sections to be more consistent with document governance writing standards.
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added WM Qualifying Criteria table • Included Quick Reference Guide
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added reference to the Constraints Management SharePoint & Enterprise Public Works SharePoint