

Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure

Attachment 7, Focused Tree Inspection Procedures

This attachment provides guidance for performing the pilot for Focused Tree Inspections (FTI) for vegetation that can impact Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) overhead electric distribution lines or facilities in Areas of Concern (AOCs) to maintain safe and reliable operation. This guidance is subject to revision following the completion of FTI pilots to support the continuation of prioritizing FTI work through 2023.

This pilot focuses Vegetation Management (VM) efforts with qualified inspectors during annual or second patrols in identified AOCs that have experienced higher volumes of vegetation damage and/or outages.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) Vegetation Management Inspectors (VMI)
- Quality Management – Vegetation QC

BEFORE YOU START

- All individuals must complete PG&E Academy training required for inspections prior to performing this procedure. Training expectations are available at [Training Expectations](#).
- VMI are required to update VM Certification in Structured Learning Path (SLP).
- Vegetation Management SLP will be considered the system of record for tracking ISA TRAQ certification and verification.

PROCEDURES

1.1 What To Inspect

- Vegetation (categorized as either a whole tree or portion of tree) that may fail, fall into, or otherwise impact PG&E electric facilities.
- Any vegetation that is causing strain or abrasion to the secondary conductors (excluding service drops).

1.2 Inspecting Vegetation

1. The TRAQ VMI must GO TO their assigned locations and PERFORM a Level 1 visual inspection of the vegetation surrounding the facilities.
2. On overhead electric distribution primary and secondary conductors and facilities (excluding service drops), IDENTIFY trees that may fail, fall into, or contact the line:
 - Dead trees or portions of trees that are rotten or weakened by decay or disease

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- Rotten or diseased portions of otherwise healthy trees that overhang or lean (due to outside influences: soil structure, soil heaving, weather conditions, cracking, breaking, etc.) toward the line (refer to Appendix E, Information About Tree Lean, in TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure")
- Structural defects (including bark, epicormic sprouts, etc.) on limbs or portions of otherwise healthy trees that may lead to failures

NOTE

Apply increased scrutiny to species listed in the pilot AOC regional outage breakdown tables below.

3. IF (while performing the Level 1 inspection) the TRAQ VMI identifies a tree or trees with conditions found in the Hazard Trees/Vegetation Clearance section of the "California Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide" (see Appendix B, Overview of Tree Defects and Site Conditions, in TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure"),

OR IF, based on TRAQ VMI judgement, they suspect a tree may have one or more of those conditions,

THEN PERFORM a Level 2 assessment using a 15-month timeframe to inform work prescription.
4. IF work is NOT necessary to maintain safety and compliance as defined above,

THEN INSPECT the remaining assigned circuit.
5. IF work is necessary, or if vegetation conditions will not hold for 15 months,

THEN PRESCRIBE work.
 - a. To prescribe work, the TRAQ VMI must REFER to [TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure."](#)

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OUTAGE BREAKDOWN FOR PILOT AOC PER REGION

The tables below show the two tree species that cause the most outages per region.

North Coast: Napa_AOC_03	
Root, Branch & Trunk (Outage Failure 57%)	Outage Analysis
Black Oak	Account for 35%
Douglas Fir	

Sierra: El Dorado_AOC_02	
Root, Branch & Trunk (Outage Failure 61%)	Outage Analysis
Ponderosa Pine	Account for 41%
Black Oak	

North Valley: Butte_AOC_02	
Root, Branch & Trunk (Outage Failure 50%)	Outage Analysis
Ponderosa Pine	Account for 30%
Black Oak	

Trunk Failure is Significantly Greater

Central Valley: Calaveras_AOC_04	
Root, Branch & Trunk (Outage Failure 71%)	Outage Analysis
Ponderosa Pine	Account for 53%
Black Oak	

Ponderosa Pine is Significantly Greater

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REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
Entire Document	Original Publication