Enhanced Vegetation Management Pre-Inspection Procedure

SUMMARY

This procedure describes how to perform pre-inspection patrols specific to the Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) program in effort to reduce vegetation related risks to electric distribution and transmission facilities.

Level of Use: Informational Use

TARGET AUDIENCE

Vegetation management (VM) operational employees and contractors involved in pre-inspection (PI) activities.

SAFETY

NA

BEFORE YOU START

NA

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PROCEDURE STEPS

1 General Expectations

1.1 All overhead electric distribution and transmission facilities must be inspected for the following conditions:

- Vegetation overhanging the conductors, per Section 2.
- Vegetation currently or potential to encroach within 4-ft. of the primary conductor before the next routine cycle, per Section 3.
- Vegetation tall enough to strike the facilities, per Section 4.

1.2 IF there is any known risk to the electric facilities, THEN prescribe the tree for work.

1.3 IF the prescribed tree work will create a subsequent hazard, THEN prescribe tree for removal.

1.4 IF the tree is observed within the minimum distance requirements (MDR) (see Utility Procedure TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Routine Patrol Procedure") or the tree is failing,

THEN follow Utility Procedure TD-7103P-09, "Vegetation Management Hazard Notification Procedure."

1.5 WHEN an abnormal field condition is identified, THEN follow Utility Procedure TD-7102P-09, "Reporting Abnormal Field Conditions Procedure.

2 Overhanging Vegetation

2.1 The PI must prescribe clearance of any vegetation if:

- The vegetation is currently within the 4-ft. vertical plane (see Appendix A) of primary conductor, or
- The vegetation will enter the 4-ft. vertical plane before the next routine/compliance cycle.

3 Primary Conductor Radial Clearance

3.1 For vegetation with the potential to encroach within a 4-ft. radius of the primary conductor before the next routine/compliance tree work cycle, PRESCRIBE a minimum of 12-ft. radial clearance.

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3.2 Coastal redwoods and giant sequoias are not required to be removed or mitigated below conductor height (i.e. “topped") when the tree trunk occurs within the 4-ft. radius of the primary conductor, IF the tree has no indications of any of the following conditions:

- Re-sprouting from the bole of the tree resulting in annual non-compliance.
- Significant defects.
- Poor trunk attachments related to secondary re-growth from past trunk failures.

4 Trees with Strike Potential

4.1 INSPECT all trees tall enough to strike facilities.

4.2 IF the tree is tall enough to strike, CREATE a vegetation point. For LIDAR generated vegetation points, refer to Section 5.

4.3 ASSESS the tree using the tree assessment tool (TAT) within GISArc Collector.

- For trees with an “abate” result, PRESCRIBE the tree work to remove the risk.
- For trees with a “do not abate” result, POPULATE fields as follows:
  - Status select “No Work Required under EVM.”
  - Prescription select “NW_No Work.”

5 LIDAR Based Vegetation Points

NOTE

Vegetation points based on LIDAR data are considered accurate. Physical validation is required before the inspection is considered complete. This will ensure all trees with strike potential are properly identified and mitigated.

5.1 All LIDAR based vegetation points must be validated by a PI.

5.2 The PI must assess each vegetation point, as specified in Step 1.1.

5.3 IF a tree is does not exist (e.g. two vegetation points are listed but one tree was physically removed) or is clearly not tall enough to strike facilities at time of inspection, THEN populate the vegetation point fields as follows:

- Status select “Not Valid.”
- TAT Result select “Not a Strike Tree.”

6 Customer Refusal

6.1 IF the customer refuses removal or pruning, THEN FOLLOW Utility Procedure TD-7102P-04, "Distribution Vegetation Refusal Procedure."

END of Instructions

DEFINITIONS

Facilities: Any electrical or non-electrical conductors or apparatus on a pole, the pole, or any pole supporting wires. Service drops are excluded.

LIDAR: Stands for Light Detection and Ranging. Data collected and generated by remote sensing technology using light detection.

Trees: Vegetation with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 4-in. or more.

Vegetation point: A data point used to represent a tree in the VM inventory system.

Vertical plane: The area created by horizontally extending 4-ft. from both sides of the outer most conductor then vertically extending to the sky (i.e. football goal post).

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The vegetation management document owner is responsible for the rollout, communication, and periodic review of this utility procedure. Vegetation management operations personnel are responsible for taking the applicable training and executing the procedure where applicable.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Utility Standard TD-7102S, "Distribution Vegetation Management Standard (DVMS)"

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT / REGULATORY COMMITMENT

General Order (G.O.) 95, Rule 35

Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 4293

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Developmental References:

Cal Fire Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide, 2008 revision

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Supplemental References:

Utility Procedure TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Routine Patrol Procedure"

Utility Procedure TD-7103P-09, "Vegetation Management Hazard Notification Procedure"

APPENDICES

NA

ATTACHMENTS

NA

DOCUMENT RECISION

NA

DOCUMENT APPROVER

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DOCUMENT OWNER

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REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
NA	NA

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Appendix A, Diagram of EVM Tree Work Standards
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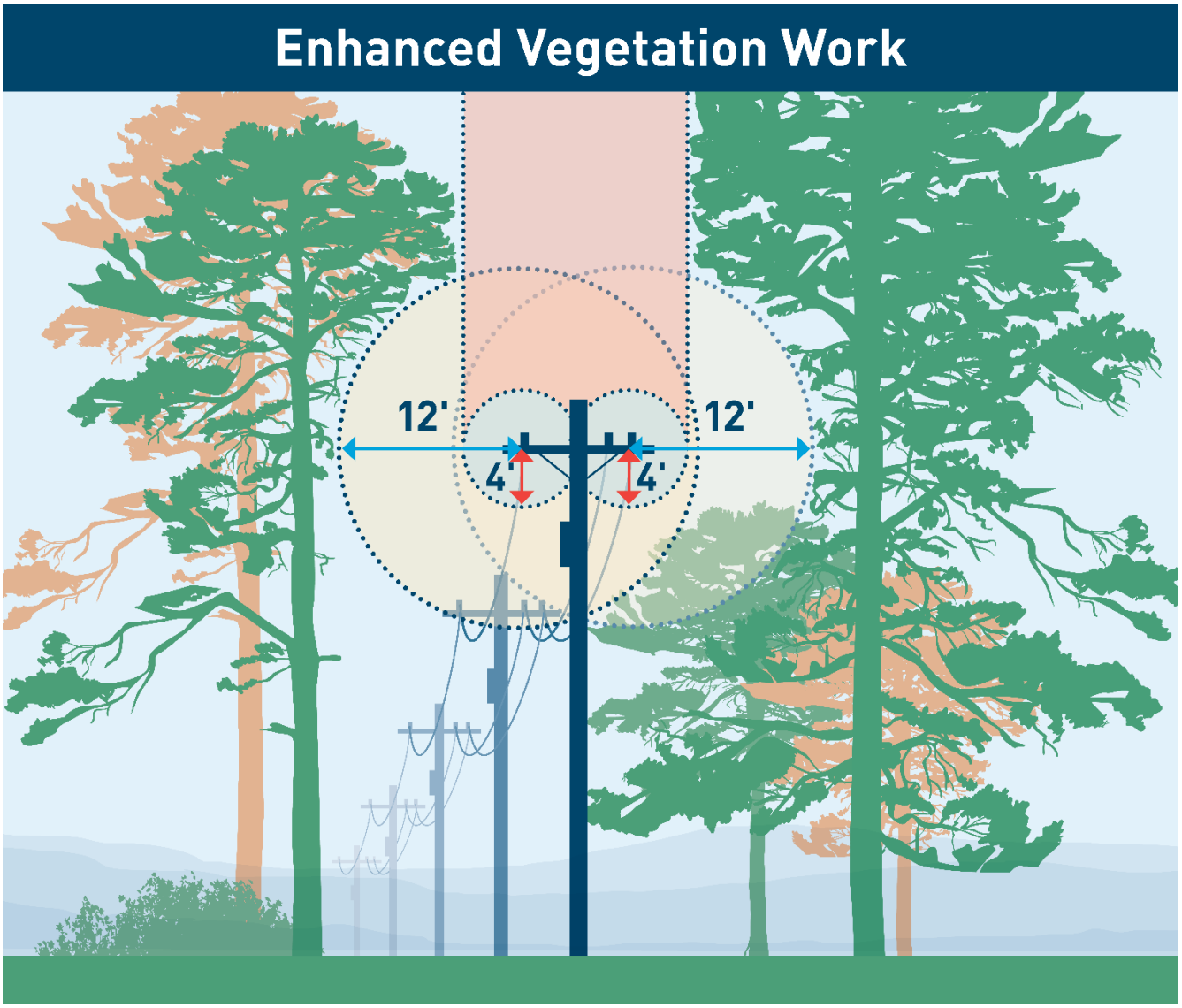

Figure 1. Diagram of EVM Tree Work Standards