



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

ELECTRIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM

TO: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PG&E Reference Number: EI211217A	
CPUC Website	December 17, 2021 at 1725 hours
CPUC Recipient	Date & Time CPUC Notified
1-800-235-1076	PG&E
Telephone Number	Reported by
	415-973-2782
	Telephone Number

Report Type: 20-Day Report

- INJURY/FATALITY:** An incident which results in a fatality or personal injury to an employee or 3rd party rising to the level of in-patient hospitalization and is attributable or allegedly attributable to utility owned electric facilities. Incidents involving motor vehicles are not reportable unless they result in death or injury attributable or allegedly attributable to electrical contact with the utility owned electric facilities.
- MEDIA:** An incident that is attributable or allegedly attributable to Pacific Gas and Electric owned electric facilities and is subject to significant public attention and/or media coverage.
- PROPERTY DAMAGE:** A single electric incident where property damage of the utility or a single 3rd party is estimated to exceed \$50,000 and is attributable or allegedly attributable to utility owned electric facilities.
- OPERATOR JUDGEMENT:** Any incident that is significant in the judgement of the operator, even though it may not meet the incident reporting criteria.

20-Day Report Sent to CPUC – Date: January 14, 2022

Initial Report Sent to CPUC – Date: December 17, 2021


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TO: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PG&E Reference Number: EI211217A
20-Day Report

Date and Time of Incident:		December 17, 2021 at 0625 hours			
Date and Time Incident Determined Reportable:		December 17, 2021 at 1635 hours			
Location of Incident:		Intersection of Spear St. and Mission St.			
City:	San Francisco	Division:	San Francisco	County:	San Francisco
Circuit/Facility:	SF Z 1121	Voltage:	12kV		
Service Interrupted (Date and Time):	December 17, 2021 at 0625 hours	Total Customers Affected:	2,240		
Service Restored (Date and Time):	December 23, 2021 at 1600 hours				

Description of Incident:

On December 17, 2021 at 0625 hours, the PG&E Distribution Control Center ("DCC") received SCADA alarms indicating an outage on the SF Z 1121 (12kV) Underground Circuit, fed from Embarcadero Substation, resulting in 35 customers out of power. The Distribution Operator ("DO") tested the circuit at 0645 hours after ensuring there were no known hazards. The circuit did not hold and tested 'No Good', indicating a sustained fault. The DO worked with two cablemen ("Cableman #1" and "Cableman #2") to troubleshoot and search for the fault location via switching operations. They tested the circuit, again unsuccessfully, at 0750 hours. Another cableman ("Cableman #3") joined to assist with switching.

At 0830 hours, the DO received notification of a hazard at 101 Mission Street at the intersection of Mission Street and Spear Street. Cableman #2 went to that location to investigate and observed smoke coming from Vault MH1732 (the "Incident Location"). This vault contained a single transformer, as well as distribution and fiber cable from multiple circuits. When Cableman #2 arrived at 0840 hours the San Francisco Fire Department ("SFFD") was already onsite. At some point in the subsequent two hours, SFFD left the Incident Location.

Cableman #1 mistakenly closed an incorrect switch at 0850 hours. This caused the SF Z 1118 (12kV) circuit to trip, resulting in 2050 customers out of power. Cableman #1 immediately realized the mistake, re-opened the incorrect switch, and notified the DO. The DO re-energized the Z 1118 circuit at 0905 hours, restoring power to all 2050 customers. The event was documented in PG&E's Corrective Action Program ("CAP") and is currently under review (See "Attachment 07"). This event did not contribute to the fire.

Cableman #1 continued to perform switching operations at the DO's direction while Cableman #2 monitored the evolving situation at the Incident Location. A PG&E crew, led by a cable crew foreman ("Foreman #1"), began to pump water out of the vault so it could be inspected. Cableman #3 joined Cableman #2 at the manhole to assist with inspecting the vault. At 1000 hours Cableman #2 departed, and shortly afterwards Cableman #1 arrived at the Incident Location. The cablemen reported seeing a damaged splice in the vault at 1020 hours.

The DO tested the circuit, again unsuccessfully, at 1035 hours. At 1055 hours, Cableman #1 reported that the smoke had worsened and requested that the DO call the fire department. The DO then notified the SFFD that the CO₂ truck, a vehicle containing carbon dioxide that the Fire Department uses to fight fires in electric vaults, was



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needed at the Incident Location.

Between 1100 and 1115 hours the SFFD drove past the Incident Location. Cableman #1 notified the DO and Foreman #1 notified their supervisor, who called 911 from their office and requested the SFFD CO₂ truck at the Incident Location. The crew put out more cones and caution tape at the Incident Location to keep people away from the fire. Shortly afterwards San Francisco Police Department ("SFPD") arrived. SFFD then returned, but without the CO₂ truck. Foreman #1 notified their supervisor, who called 911 again and requested the CO₂ truck. The operator put them through to an SFFD captain, who replied that the CO₂ truck was on the way. The supervisor then joined Foreman #1 at the Incident Location.

At 1120 hours the SF X 1101 (12kV) circuit tripped, affecting 150 customers. At 1140 hours the SFFD CO₂ truck arrived at the manhole and began to use CO₂ to fight the fire. By 1220 hours the SFFD had attempted multiple times to extinguish the fire. It had not extinguished and continued to damage the contents of the vault. Circuit SF Z 1107 (12kV) tripped offline, affecting no customers but reducing the redundancy on the network. PG&E de-energized circuit SF Z 1106 (12kV), affecting no customers but further reducing the redundancy on the network. PG&E deenergized the last live circuit running through the vault, SF Z 3404 (34.5kV), at 1255 hours (again affecting no customers but straining the network). After all circuits were de-energized the fire began to die down. It was extinguished between 1310 and 1330 hours.

At 1335 hours PG&E energized part of Circuit SF Z 1107. At 1340 hours PG&E energized parts of Circuits SF Z 1121 and SF Z 1101, restoring 150 customers. For the next three hours the cablemen continued switching and were able to restore 20 more customers. Four more customers were restored on December 21, and the remaining customers were restored on December 23 after repairs.

Once the fire was out, PG&E crews remained on site and a civil engineer inspected the roof of the vault. They advised that there were areas of structural concern and that vehicles should not drive over it. PG&E crews made the vault safe for entry. Once crews got into the vault, they transported the transformer and various burnt materials, including cables, wood, wires, and metal pieces, into evidence. PG&E is not aware of any injuries associated with this incident. Repairs are still ongoing and are expected to exceed \$50,000.

PG&E reported this incident to the CPUC on December 17, 2021 under the Media criterion due to inquiries from four different media outlets within six hours of the incident. PG&E is continuing its investigation into this incident. This information is preliminary, and all the times, customer numbers, and measurements mentioned in this report are approximate. PG&E is fully cooperating and communicating with external agencies as required.

Attachments:

- Attachment 01_2019 GO165 patrol records_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 02_2020 GO165 patrol records_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 03_2018 GO165 inspection records_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 04_2021 GO165 inspection records_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 05_EC 122500943_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 06_ILIS_21-0159287_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 07_CAP 122502430_CONF.pdf
- Attachment 08_Photos.pdf



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- Attachment 09_Incident Map_CONF.pdf