



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

ELECTRIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM

TO: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PG&E Reference Number: EI220710B	
CPUC Website	February 28, 2023 at 1655 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 the property damage to PG&E or 3rd parties exceeds or is expected to exceed \$50,000 and is allegedly attributable to PG&E 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: March 28, 2023
Initial Report Sent to CPUC – Date: February 28, 2023



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

ELECTRIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM

TO: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PG&E Reference Number: EI220710B				20-Day Report	
Date and Time of Incident:		July 10, 2022 at 0315 hours			
Date and Time Incident Determined Reportable:		February 28, 2023 at 1645 hours			
Location of Incident:					
City:	Bodega Bay	Division:	Sonoma	County:	Sonoma
Circuit/Facility:	Salmon Creek 1101	Voltage:	12kV		
Service Interrupted (Date and Time):	July 10, 2022 at 0315 hours	Total Customers Affected:	6		
Service Restored (Date and Time):	July 10, 2022 at 1415 hours				

Description of Incident:

On July 10, 2022 at 0315 hours, PG&E's Distribution Control Center received SmartMeter™ signals indicating a transformer level outage on Salmon Creek 1101 Distribution Circuit, resulting in six customers out of power. At 0530 hours, Sonoma County Fire District ("SCFD") called the PG&E Emergency Line to report a residential structure fire at [REDACTED] Bodega Bay ("Incident Location"), a non-High Fire Threat District location. A PG&E troubleshooter ("Troubleshooter #1") was subsequently dispatched and arrived on site at 0605 hours. Upon arrival, Troubleshooter #1 observed SCFD on site, the fire extinguished, and that SCFD had switched off the main circuit breaker to the Incident Location. Troubleshooter #1 ensured the fuses at the transformer were open to make the scene safe and removed the Incident Location's SmartMeter™ from the socket.

Troubleshooter #1 spoke with SCFD who stated that the fire was not likely related to PG&E facilities and suspected the communication cable that was grounded to the customer's panel or the Tesla car charging station as the ignition source. Troubleshooter #1 cut the underground service to the Incident Location in the clear and checked the voltage to the other customers fed from the same transformer; all voltage tested good.

Troubleshooter #1 inspected the transformer pole and observed no indication of burning, arcing, or any abnormalities on PG&E facilities. Out of an abundance of caution, Troubleshooter #1 created an Electric Corrective ("EC") tag to replace the secondary connectors at the pole and the "bricks" (otherwise known as busbar) in the secondary box due to age and some visible corrosion. At 1415 hours, a contract repair crew completed the repairs, leaving the service to the Incident Location detached, and restored power to the remaining five customers. No equipment was collected at the time of the incident because there was no indication the ignition was caused by PG&E equipment.

The SCFD fire report states, "PG&E had pulled the meter prior to my arrival and stated that the fusible link cutout at the pole had tripped. PG&E tried to reset the fusible link that was found to be tripped but not burnt. When PG&E attempted to reset the fuse a continuous arc with notable sparks was noted at the burnt exposed comcast cable.¹ PG&E immediately opened the fuse cutout and left the power off to the neighborhood and stated they

¹ See Atch09_Photos for photo of the burned, exposed communication cable.



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

ELECTRIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM

would return later to repair and restore power.” In the report it notes there was only the communication cable in the Area of Origin. SCFD determined the cause of the fire to be failure of the electrical system and a loss of ground.

On February 28, 2023, PG&E Law-Claims received a property damage claim exceeding \$50,000 stating PG&E electrical equipment energized the communication cable causing the residential structure fire. The insurance company hired a third-party Cause and Origin expert who alleged overcurrent heat damage to the customer’s ground wires originated from the transformer pole, after which the overheated grounding conductors ignited combustibles under the stairs. The insurance company did not offer a joint inspection of the customer equipment, so PG&E was not given an opportunity to have experts provide analysis of the customer equipment after the incident occurred.

On March 8, 2023, EII, Law-Claims, and a PG&E troubleshooter (“Troubleshooter #2”) conducted a site visit. Troubleshooter #2 tested the neutral from the secondary box to the pole and it tested good. The underground service to the Incident Location could not be tested because the customer requested their panel to be upgraded from a 100-amp panel to a 200-amp panel and required new service to be trenched. The old service was a direct bury in the ground and was cut off during the upgrade. Both troubleshooters stated this area is prone to heavy costal corrosion as it is less than 0.25 miles away from the coastline. Based upon their experience, they reported that it is common for the customer panels in similar areas to cross phase from corrosion, which could have been a possible cause of energizing the customer’s ground and tripping the fuse at the transformer. All equipment involved the incident has been removed or is inaccessible, therefore PG&E is unable to make further assessments.

There is no indication PG&E facilities provided an overcurrent from the pole. No other customers fed from this transformer have reported any abnormal voltage or filed claims related to this incident. A review of SmartMeter™ data shows no abnormalities leading up to the incident for any of the customers on this transformer, including the Incident Location. The transformer size was 15kVA and at 93% capacity at the time of the incident. This transformer is being upgraded to a 25kVA on the same project that is replacing the underground service to increase capacity for the upgraded panel. All available data indicates the fault was likely beyond the transformer.

The two most recent patrols for the Incident Location’s transformer pole took place on November 6, 2020 and October 21, 2021. No abnormalities were found. The two most recent inspections² of the Incident Location took place on July 22, 2013 and August 28, 2018. The 2013 inspection resulted in the creation of EC Tag 107041926 to replace corroded hardware, repair woodpecker holes, and some minor work. This tag was completed on June 18, 2014. The 2018 inspection resulted in EC Tag 114926481 to repair woodpecker holes. This tag was completed on July 10, 2019.

PG&E reviewed all completed, cancelled, and pending EC tags generated at the Incident Location in the last five years between July 10, 2017 and July 10, 2022. No abnormalities were found aside from the inspection findings above.

PG&E reported this incident to the CPUC on February 28, 2023, under the Property Damage criterion due to a customer claim exceeding \$50,000.

² Inspection of secondary enclosure includes only a visual evaluation of the exterior of visible enclosures to identify obvious structural hazards or problems. We do not inspect the customer’s meter panel, as it is customer-owned, and the conductor is only inspected on an overhead inspection to the point of attachment to the customer’s equipment. Please note this is an underground feed so we are unable to visually inspect the underground service conductor once it leaves the underground facility.

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY****ELECTRIC INCIDENT REPORT FORM**

PG&E has concluded its investigation into this incident because there is no indication its facilities provided an overcurrent from the pole, and there is no evidence that can be tested. PG&E will reopen the investigation if further evidence is presented and will develop corrective actions. All times, customer numbers and measurements mentioned in this report are approximate. PG&E is fully cooperating and communicating with external agencies as required.

Attachments:

- DRU11494_Atch01_2020 GO165 patrol records_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch02_2021 GO165 patrol records_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch03_2013 GO165 inspection records_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch04_2018 GO165 inspection records_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch05_EC Tag_124037398_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch06_EC Tag_107041926_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch07_EC Tag_114926481_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch08_ILIS_22-0083623_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch09_Photos.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch10_Fire Report_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch11_Engineering Report_CONF.pdf
- DRU11494_Atch12_Incident Map_CONF.pdf