



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

Electric T&D Bulletin

Title: Urban Wildland Fire (UWF) Area Actions

Check all appropriate boxes

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY ALERT | <input type="checkbox"/> GAS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTION | <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTATION ENGR. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY COMPLIANCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ELECTRIC | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSMISSION | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANS./SUB. M&C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDED ACTIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> ESTIMATING | <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> APPLICANT DESIGNER /
CONSTRUCTION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATIONAL/CLARIFICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MAPPING | <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE | |

PURPOSE

The primary audience and responsible stakeholders for this Bulletin are the 1) Maintenance and Construction Electric Distribution Compliance Departments, 2) the Compliance Clerical group at the Sacramento RMC and 3) the Distribution Engineering Operations Department in seven¹ divisions: Diablo, East Bay, Mission, North Bay, Peninsula, San Francisco, and Sierra.

This bulletin is effective immediately and communicates changes to the Urban Wildland Fire (UWF) Area Actions to ensure implementation of identified actions to reduce risk of fires in UWF-identified areas. This bulletin should be tail boarded annually at a minimum.

This bulletin supersedes Electric T&D Bulletin 2007-29.

This bulletin will be cancelled after its contents have been included in the 2010 *Electric Distribution Preventive Maintenance (EDPM) Manual* and/or Utility Standard S2302 and its future associated work procedure.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Division Electric Superintendents and Distribution Engineering Operations Manager are responsible for ensuring their organizations are informed and understand the directives indicated in this bulletin.

Distribution Engineers shall identify, by March 31st of each year, the peak load period (e.g., months) for the applicable circuits in the UWF-identified areas for purposes of the overhead infrared inspections.

Compliance Supervisors or their designee shall ensure compliance to this bulletin, provide applicable UWF training to their Maintenance Inspectors/Qualified Company Representatives (QCRs), and ensure the applicable enhanced patrols or overhead inspections, overhead infrared inspections, and identified corrective notifications are completed by the dates/period indicated in this bulletin.

Maintenance Inspectors shall perform the applicable enhanced patrols or overhead inspections, and applicable overhead infrared inspections per this bulletin.

¹ Sacramento Division UWF area belongs to SMUD

Compliance Clerical shall enter into SAP any notifications identified during the enhanced patrols as well as enter into a SharePoint master log any non-exempt equipment identified on the log sheets (Attachment 4).

Electric Distribution Maintenance shall perform oversight of the process such as status of work completed and status of UWF notifications.

GENERAL

- Diablo, East Bay, Mission, North Bay, Peninsula, San Francisco, and Sierra Divisions must perform enhanced overhead patrols or overhead inspections (if scheduled) in the UWF-identified areas.
- In 2009, North Bay (NB) and East Bay (EB) Divisions completed 100% of the UWF circuit sections identified in Attachment 2. For 2010, the selection of circuit segments will be for the remaining five divisions (Diablo, Mission, Peninsula, San Francisco, and Sierra). Starting in 2011, the UWF infrared inspection requirement will go back to 100% of the UWF circuit segments in every division.

DEFINITIONS

“Enhanced” Patrols – In addition to normal patrol procedures per the *EDPM Manual*, the “enhanced” patrol will include looking for excessive sag in primary lines (spans that could possibly slap together in windy conditions), GO 95 minimum requirements for secondary separation (usually caused by trees pushing the wires together), vegetation issues, and aluminum parallel groove connectors used in copper to copper connections on the primary lines.

Fire Season - Typically defined as May 15 through October 15, however it varies from year-to-year and geographic locations.

Urban Wildland Fire (UWF) Area – This represents PG&E’s identified UWF geographic area in the following Divisions: Diablo, East Bay, Mission, North Bay, Peninsula, Sacramento², San Francisco, and Sierra. UWF area is characterized as populated, high fire risk areas with severe terrain. It is based on the following criteria: high risk California Department of Forestry area or known past fire area, limited access (steep terrain), and high population density. These areas are shown in Map Guide GIS in the Wildland Urban Risk Areas layer. The maps to be patrolled include both 500’ and 100’ plat maps in the UWF areas and are listed in Attachment 1 to this bulletin. The circuit segments in the UWF areas are the segments of the circuits listed in Attachment 2 to this Bulletin.

Exempt equipment – Equipment that does not require clearance of flammable vegetation, which is specified and shown with pictures in Section 2 – Non-Exempt of the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide. Link: [Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide](#)

² Sacramento UWF area belongs to SMUD

Non-exempt equipment – Equipment that requires clearance of flammable vegetation, which is specified and shown with pictures in Section 3 – Exempt of the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide. Link: [Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide](#)

Examples of non-exempt equipment are: universal fuses, open link fuses, enclosed cutouts (4kv) with universal fuse, solid blade disconnects, in-line disconnects, lightning arrestors, hot tap clamp connectors, split bolt connects, grasshopper air switch and transmission air switch as shown in Attachment 3. The Patrol and Inspection Program Manager is responsible for collection of the data and posting to the master log on the EDM SharePoint. The Manager of Electric Distribution Maintenance will supply the data to the Manager of Electric Distribution Standards and Strategy for analysis and possible project initiation.

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

“Enhanced” Overhead Patrols or Overhead Inspection

1. **Compliance Supervisors or their designee** shall schedule the applicable “enhanced” patrol or overhead inspection in the UWF-identified areas so that the patrol or inspection is to be completed by March 31 before the Fire Season.
2. **Maintenance Inspectors** shall perform the applicable “**enhanced**” **overhead patrol or overhead inspection** by March 31 for the applicable UWF-identified area plat map (See Attachment 1).
 - a. Abnormal conditions and flammable vegetation near the distribution facilities will be identified during patrols and documented on the inspection log consistent with normal work practices. Also, the condition shall be documented as follows:
 - Use priority E for non-emergency response conditions. Priority B can be assigned if the condition warrants correction with 5 weeks.
 - Check the UWF box.
 - Check the applicable FDA.
 - If the condition is flammable vegetation near distribution facilities in the UWF area, add in the Field Comment Section: “**Flammable vegetation near distribution facilities**”.
 - Indicate a required end date not later than August 31st of the current year.
 - b. If non-exempt equipment is found in UWF areas during the enhanced patrol, fill out the information on the log in Attachment 4. This information will be entered into a master log to be located on the EDM SharePoint. This will create an inventory of non-exempt equipment in UWF areas and can be used as supporting information for any special projects or other efforts to address this fire risk equipment.

- c. The Patrol and Inspection Program Manager will contact the seven UWF Divisions to find out and document if any portion of the UWF areas have the high wind conditions.

The information gathered in this section (Section 2.) will be provided to Electric Distribution Standards engineers for risk assessment.

Overhead Infrared Inspections

1. **Local Distribution Engineering Operations Department** shall identify the peak loading periods (months) for the applicable circuits (see Attachment 2) by March 31st.
2. **Compliance Supervisors or their designee** shall coordinate and complete the applicable overhead infrared during the identified peak load period (generally the summer months) for the applicable circuit segments in the UWF-identified areas (Map Guide GIS overhead distribution line layer and Wildland Urban Risk Areas layer).
3. **Maintenance Inspector/Qualified Company Representatives (QCRs)** shall perform the overhead infrared inspection during the identified peak load period for the applicable circuit segments in the UWF-identified areas (Map Guide GIS overhead distribution line layer over Wildland Urban Risk Areas layer) and identify any abnormal conditions in the Electric Corrective Work Form – OVERHEAD and Infrared Data Sheet. If possible, the inspections should be done in the afternoon which is usually the peak load part of the day.

Abnormal conditions will be identified consistent with normal work practices. The condition shall be documented as follows:

Electric Corrective Work Form – OVERHEAD:

- Use the front of the EC Overhead form and add the Infrared Data Sheet (Attachment 5) (the FDA section on the back of the EC Overhead form will not be used for Infrared).
- Use Priority B.
- Check the UWF box.
- Check the IR box.
- Indicate a required end date of 1 month from date of identification.

REFERENCES

- *2009 Electric Distribution Preventive Maintenance Manual (EDPM)*
- Numbered Document 072148, “Fire Responsibility and Urban Wildlife Areas”
- Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) List of Maps to be patrolled include both 500' and 100' plat maps in the UWF areas
- 2) List of Circuit Segments in the UWF areas
- 3) List of Non-Exempt Equipment from Section 2 of the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide
- 4) Non-Exempt Equipment in UWF Area Log Sheet
- 5) Infrared Data Sheet

Approved By: Marie Jordan, Director – Distribution Engineering & Mapping

Date: 1/20/10

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If you have any questions about this bulletin, please contact the applicable employees:

Type of EC Notification	Name	LAN ID	Phone Number
Enhanced Overhead Patrols, Overhead Inspections, or Overhead Infrared Inspections	Ritch Cureton	RCCb	8-628-3035