

# Vegetation Control Field Guide

WMP-Discovery2022 DR\_CalAdvocates\_018-Q04Atch07  
Revised: 3/17/2022

- Any skipped locations must be approved by the PG&E SCRC.
- Flag (green & white) all Compliance, Conformance and Work Performed findings.
- Review Maps+ for any PG&E Corporate Security alerts (Level I or Level II). Call CFVM Sr FT for direction if audit location is in security alert area.
- Notify 1<sup>st</sup> alert code: make attempt to contact customer before proceeding to location.  
If no response from customer, Ok to review the location if accessible.
- PI Notify 1<sup>st</sup> alert code: verbal permission from customer is required before entering the property.  
After two attempts to make contact with no response, contact PG&E SCRC for approval to skip location.
- Pictures/Comments Required for any LEVEL 4 finding. Number of pictures are defined by finding. Be concise with comments based on picture/finding.
- See Page 3 for specific NON-EXEMPT EQUIPMENT ON SUBJECT POLES**

Finding Category	Finding Description	Finding Level	Comment Req (CR) or Picture Req (PR)
Subject Pole	Any pole with exempt equipment, regardless of LRA/SRA	4	CR PR
Radial Clearance PRC 4292 (a) (LRA poles: do not fail Level 4)	Level 3 - flammable material moved into cylinder after work date with the potential to spread fire outside cylinder	3	CR
	Level 4 - Below conditions were not present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 foot radius at and originating from ground level</li> <li>At ground level- remove flammable materials including but not limited to, ground litter, duff and dead or desiccated vegetation that will allow fire to spread continuously outside of the 10 foot cylinder.</li> <li>LRA poles: if clearance has not been achieved, VC comments should be noted in the VC inspection report record as to why. If no VC comments in inspection report, add comments for current condition</li> </ul> <i>Note: Grasses should have been cut as low as conditions allow. Regrowth is expected. Consider vegetation differences both inside and outside of cylinder. Fire resistant vegetation such as ice plant does not need to be removed.</i>	4	CR PR- minimum of 2 pics required showing tape and/or measuring pole
Vertical Clearance PRC 4292 b,c) (LRA poles: do not fail Level 4)	Below conditions were not present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 0-8 ft above ground level- remove flammable trash, debris or other materials, grass, herbaceous and brush vegetation. All limbs and foliage of living trees shall be removed up to a height of 8 ft</li> <li>From 8 ft to horizontal plane of highest point of conductor attachment- remove dead, diseased or dying limbs and foliage from living sound trees and any dead, diseased, or dying trees in their entirety. That will allow fire to spread continuously outside of the 10 foot cylinder.</li> <li>LRA poles: if clearance has not been achieved, VC comments should be noted in the VC inspection report record as to why. If no VC comments in inspection report, add comments for current condition</li> </ul> <i>Note: Growth after work date should not count towards fail</i>	4	CR PR- minimum of 2 pics required showing tape and/or measuring pole
ANSI A300	Visible stub(s) from current work (where structure allows) and/or tears left per ANSI A300 standards	4	CR PR
Fire Risk Matrix	Different rating than VC Inspector determination (within 2 levels)	4	CR PR 2 minimum
Shape Tag	Shape tag(s) does not match BMP clear type or no shape tag was present. Please see chart below.	4	CR PR
Site Clean	Debris left outside cylinder from recent clearing work that can potentially blow back into the cylinder, contribute to ladder fuels in the surrounding area or pose a customer satisfaction issue <i>Note: Lop and scatter is acceptable</i>	4	CR PR
Environmental	Work performed does not meet environmental BMP 12a/12b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to elderberry shrub (beyond routine clearing)</li> <li>Debris left in Riparian area (does not meet BMP 12a/12b requirements)</li> </ul>	4	CR PR
Additional Observation	<i>Example: Comment if Erosion is present due to clearing practice or outside influence (water runoff collecting and exiting cylinder from outside source)</i>	N/A	CR PR- for erosion observations

  

BMP Clear Type/ Code	Shape Tag	Review Type
(P) Clr-NoChm	Circle	QCD Clear Only
(F) Clr-ChmTrt	Square	QCD Chem Treat
(H) Hardscape	Triangle	QCD PI
(J) Full Landscape (Full VMA)	Octagon	QCD PI
(K) Part Landscape (Part VMA)	Circle & Octagon	QCD Clear Only (Circle) & QCD PI (Octagon)
(M) ModClr	Pentagon	QCD PI
(Y) Full 1255 Exempt	Octagon	QCD PI
(Z) Part 1255 Exempt	Circle & Octagon	QCD Clear Only (Circle) & QCD PI (Octagon)

## Reportable Checklist:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal Field Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Not Worked | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation- FYI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Priority 1 / 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Plant   | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4292 Non-Compliant Pole   |  |   |

### Fire Risk Assessment for Vegetation Control Pole Clearing

**Objective:** Consistently assess the risk of fire propagation surrounding poles subject to PRC 4292 clearing requirements.

**Fuel and Topography:** Assessment includes all visible area outside of the clearing cylinder

**Fuel's influence on a fire:** Ability to ignite and spread; Duration of burning; Intensity

**For Fuels, assess:**

Types (woody brush, trees, flashy fuels such as grass, needles and leaves; Volume/Density (amount of fuel); Spatial Arrangement (patchy or dense).

**Topography's influence on a fire:** Direction of spread; Intensity

**For Topography, assess:**

Percent slope (high >30%; med 10-30%; low 0-10%); Direction of fire spread; Aspect (high = south facing; med = mixed; low = north facing); Natural or man-made fire breaks (roads, creeks, lakes, constructed fire breaks, etc.)

**Together Fuels and Topography affect fire behavior:**

**LOW:**

→ Low volume and density of flashy fuels and woody brush.  
→ Low slope %.  
→ Direction of fire spread impeded by breaks in fuel or presence of fire break.

**MED:**

→ Moderate volume and density of flashy fuels and woody brush.  
→ Medium slope %  
→ Direction of fire spread impeded by breaks in fuel or presence of fire break.

**HIGH:**

→ Large volume and density of flashy fuels, woody brush, trees with low limbs (ladder fuels).  
→ High slope %  
Direction of fire spread unimpeded by breaks in fuels or presence of fire breaks.

**Targets:** A target is a structure or natural resource area that can be negatively impacted by a fire originated at a pole subject to PRC 4292 clearing requirements. A target is within ¼ mile of the Subject pole and unimpeded by fire breaks.

**LOW:**

→ 1 or no structures **AND**  
→ No natural resource areas

**MED:**

→ Between 2 – 4 structures  
**AND**  
→ No natural resource areas

**HIGH:**

→ 5 or more structures **OR**  
→ Has natural resource areas

**REVIEW: \*think unimpeded by fire breaks**

1<sup>st</sup> – Assess **Fuels** and **Topography** ratings

2<sup>nd</sup> – Assess **Targets** within ¼ mile radius

3<sup>rd</sup> – Combine these assessments into the decision matrix to determine overall Fire Risk Assessment Rating.



TARGETS	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
		FUELS/TOPOGRAPHY		

Reportable Checklist:

- ☐ Abnormal Field Conditions
- ☐ Priority 1 / 2
- ☐ 4292 Non-Compliant Pole

- ☐ Tree Not Worked
- ☐ Century Plant

- ☐ Observation- FYI
- ☐ Customer Issues

This switch and recloser are critical to the PSPS process.  
They require clearing so treat them as NON-EXEMPT.

**MSO SWITCH**



**VIPER RECLOSER**



Reportable Checklist:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal Field Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Not Worked | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation- FYI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Priority 1 / 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Plant   | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4292 Non-Compliant Pole   |  |   |