

Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure

Attachment 8, Vegetation Management Operational Mitigation (VMOM) Procedures

The Vegetation Management (VM) Operational Mitigation (VMOM) attachment provides procedures for performing VMOM inspections and prescriptions on Enhanced Powerline Safety Setting (EPSS)-capable electric facilities.

VMOM activities are performed when EPSS-enabled circuits experience vegetation-related outages. These activities are divided into two types of projects:

- VMOM Reactive Projects: Patrols and tree work at the locations of vegetation caused EPSS outages.

On these patrols, Vegetation Management Inspectors (VMI) identify the tree that caused the EPSS outage and all trees with similar symptoms and conditions as the tree that caused the outage and prescribe work to mitigate all vegetation (categorized as either a whole tree or portion of tree) that has a likelihood of impacting PG&E electric facilities (excluding service drops) during the next 15 months.

VMOM reactive patrols are conducted on electric distribution facilities at a minimum of five spans in all directions from the location of the tree that caused the EPSS outage. If conditions in the field indicate it would be beneficial, the patrol's extent may be expanded beyond 5 spans with approval from PG&E leadership.

- VMOM Proactive Projects: Patrols of an entire Circuit Protection Zone (CPZ) identified in the annual scope of work. Proactive projects address historic vegetation-caused outages. The scope of work for Proactive Projects is determined by the tree failure history for the circuit.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- REFER to the Target Audience section in [TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure."](#)
- Qualified VMI that has one of these qualifications:
TRAQ, Certified Arborist, Registered Professional Forester (RPF), OR
VMI who has either a 1 year plus bachelor's degree, 2 years plus associate degree, or 3 years of Utility Vegetation Management experience

BEFORE YOU START

- All individuals must complete the PG&E Academy training required for inspections prior to performing this procedure. Training expectations are available at [Training Expectations](#).
- Gather and review the following information:
 - Review work assignment

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- Pre-Patrol Report
- [Outages - Vegetation Management](#) Power Bi to help inform their inspection.
- Gather the assigned paint color for marking. Refer to [TD-7102P-01 "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure" Appendix D, Tree Marking Colors.](#)

PROCEDURE STEPS

1 Preparing to Inspect

- 1.1 IF any of the vegetation affects distribution facilities such that it requires Priority 1 or Priority 2 mitigation,

THEN the VMI must refer to Utility Procedure [TD-7102P-17, "Vegetation Management Priority Tag Procedure."](#)

- 1.2 IF the VMI identifies abnormal field conditions,

THEN, FOLLOW the reporting procedure in [TD-7102P-09, "Reporting Abnormal Field Conditions for Vegetation Management."](#)

2 Performing Reactive Project Inspections

2.1 What to Inspect

1. INSPECT the tree that caused the EPSS outage.
 - a. IF the outage-causing tree cannot be located,

THEN PERFORM further investigation of Integrated Logging Information System ([ILIS](#)) AND CONTACT the restoration specialist to determine the starting point.
2. PERFORM a Level 1 visual inspection on all trees within the determined patrol area that extends from the location of the outage-causing tree.
 - a. The patrol area starts at the outage-causing tree and extends at least 5 primary and secondary spans in all directions from the outage-causing tree.
 - (1) If necessary, the local VPM or VMI can USE their professional judgement to extend the patrol.

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- b. IF patrols reach intersections,

THEN EXTEND patrols an equal number of spans in each direction and/or to an appropriate stopping point (i.e., end pole, end of tree stand, grass field, Recloser or other source side device).

2.2 Inspecting Vegetation

1. The VMI must PERFORM the following steps:

- a. GO TO the tree failure location AND IDENTIFY the tree that caused the outage AND CONDUCT a Level 2 assessment of that tree.
- b. For all trees that extend from the location of the outage-causing tree within the determined patrol area,

PERFORM a Level 1 visual inspection on those trees.
- c. IF the VMI sees or suspects a tree with defects or site conditions as stated in the "Hazard Trees/Vegetation Clearance" section of the [Cal Fire Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide](#) (see Appendix B, Overview of Tree Defects and Site Conditions),

THEN PERFORM a Level 2 assessment of the tree or trees that pose potential outage/ignition risk within the next 15 months.

3 Performing Proactive Project Inspections

3.1 What to Inspect

- Vegetation (categorized as either a whole tree or portion of tree) that has the likelihood to impact PG&E electric facilities.

3.2 Inspecting Vegetation

1. The VMI must PERFORM the following steps:

- a. GO TO the assigned CPZ and PERFORM a Level 1 visual inspection of the vegetation surrounding the facilities.
- b. IF the VMI sees or suspects a tree with defects or site conditions as stated in the "Hazard Trees/Vegetation Clearance" section of the [Cal Fire Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide](#) (see Appendix B, Overview of Tree Defects and Site Conditions),

THEN PERFORM a Level 2 assessment of the tree or trees that pose potential outage/ignition risk within the next 15 months.

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3.3 CONDUCT a Level 2 assessment on ALL overhanging trees.

4 Prescribing Work

4.1 Using the information gathered in either Section 1.2 (Performing Reactive Project Inspections) or Section 2.2 (Performing Proactive Project Inspections) and applying professional judgement, the VMI must:

1. USE a 15-month timeframe to inform all prescriptions.
2. FOLLOW the procedures in the “Prescribing Work” Section of the [TD-7102P-01, “Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure.”](#)

5 Marking a Tree

REFER to the [TD-7102P-01, “Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure.”](#)

6 Notifying the Customer/Property Owner

REFER to the [TD-7102P-01, “Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure.”](#)

END of Instructions

DOCUMENT APPROVER

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REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
Entire document	Updated level of inspection requirements. Updated extent of patrol determination guidelines for Reactive patrols. Replacement of Regional Outage tables with Circuit tree failure history SharePoint.