

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022  
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_022-Q12		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_CalAdvocates_022-Q12		
Request Date:	June 8, 2022	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-NonCase-2022WMP-22
Date Sent:	July 5, 2022	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

These questions relate to the attached news story published on February 27, 2022 in NBC Bay Area headlined, "PG&E Cited After Deploying 'Heli-Saw' in San Mateo County Park"<sup>1</sup> (news story). The news story states that Cal Fire had accused PG&E of jeopardizing public safety when it deployed a Heli-Saw without notice in Wunderlich County Park on December 9, 2021.

**QUESTION 12**

The news story states,

"Because ground crews were on hand before and after the operation at the park, the utility said, there were 'no safety issues...nor was the public in danger at any time.'"

- a) In normal Heli-Saw operations, what are the duties of the ground crews mentioned above?
- b) How many ground crews are involved in a typical Heli-Saw operation?
- c) How many people, on average, are in each ground crew for a typical Heli-Saw operation?
- d) How do Heli-Saw ground crews determine the location of the Heli-Saw relative to the planned flight path?
- e) How does the Heli-Saw pilot ensure that they follow the planned flight path?
- f) Please describe why the ground crews on December 9, 2021 were not aware that the Heli-Saw had passed into Wunderlich County Park until the Heli-Saw had traveled "several hundred feet into parkland."

**ANSWER 12**

- a) The duties of the ground crew are to establish three-way communication with pilots operating the Heli-Saw and maintain a safe work zone.
- b) There is not a specific number of personnel because it may change based on job site specifics, terrain, and population density.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/pge-cited-after-deploying-heli-saw-in-san-mateo-county-park/2824027/>.

- c) Please refer to (b) above.
- d) Ground crews determine location of the Heli-Saw by utilizing ArcGIS mapping and pre-operational planning a field job walk, marked trees, tailboard and flight path.
- e) The scope for the Heli-Saw pilot includes the flight path as determined in the Operational Action Plan (OAP) and during execution through three way communications.
- f) The ground crews were notified at the same time as the pilot that the heli-saw would be used in Wunderlich County Park on December 9, 2021.