



# CPUC Public Agenda 3301

Thursday, September 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m.  
San Francisco, CA



**Commissioners:**  
**Michael R. Peevey**  
**Timothy Alan Simon**  
**Michel Peter Florio**  
**Catherine J.K. Sandoval**  
**Mark J. Ferron**

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# BART Insulator Failure on September 16, 2012



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**California Public Utilities Commission**

September 27, 2012





## Presentation Overview

- Description of recent insulator failure at the BART Civic Center Station.
- Description of the events.
- Evacuation, investigation responses.
- Current status.





# Insulator Failure

- Occurred at 1:40 p.m. on Sunday 9/16.
- Civic Center Station.
- Ten-car eastbound train.
- Passengers reported a loud noise followed by heavy smoke coming from the trailing end of the train.





# Insulator Failure

- Passengers from the train and in the station were evacuated.
- BART police, SFFD, and SFPD responded to the scene.
- Third-rail power was removed from the affected track.
- Ventilation fans activated due to heavy smoke.



Civic Center

Civic  
Center  
Station

← 5-6  
CARS

Civic Center

← 5-6  
CARS

Civic  
Center  
Station





## Response Action

- SFFD, SFPD, BART Police and Maintenance inspected the track and platform.
- Arc-flash evidence was visible on the concrete between the running rail and the energized rail.
- One person was treated at the scene by EMS for smoke inhalation and released at the scene.





## New insulator and evidence of arc flash





## Current Status

- Service was restored approximately one hour after the event, about 2:40 p.m.
- Insulator and energized rail covers have been replaced.
- Investigation still ongoing – not certain of the insulator failure cause.

