

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Safety and Enforcement Division**  
**Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch**

**Incident Investigation Report**

**Report Date:** 4/4/2017

**Incident Number:** E20160919-03

**Utility:** Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)

**Date and Time of the Incident:** 9/5/2016, 1330 hours

**Location of the Incident:** 9350 Curry Rd.  
Dixon,CA  
County: Solano

**Summary of Incident:**


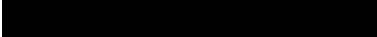
On September 7, 2016, the Solano County Sheriff's Office found a deceased person under a PG&E circuit. My investigation found that the person was holding an aluminum irrigation pipe in the vertical position when the pipe contacted the PG&E conductor and resulted in the person's electrocution.

**Fatality / Injury:** There was 1 fatality reported.

**Property Damage:** None Reported

**Utility Facilities involved:** Davis-1107, 12 kV Circuit

**Witnesses:**

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1	Raymond Cho	CPUC Investigator	(415) 703-2236
2		PG&E Troublemaker	(925) 415-2571
3		PG&E Compliance	(925) 415-2571

**Evidence:**

<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 PG&E	PG&E Final Report
2 PG&E	Data Request Response 1
3 Solano County Sheriff's Office	Utility Report
4 CPUC	Field Photographs

**Observations and Findings:**

On September 5, 2016, at approximately 1330 hours, [REDACTED] held a 32 feet aluminum irrigation pipe in the vertical position attempting to remove a squirrel from the inside of the pipe. In his attempt to remove the squirrel, he made contact with a 12 kV overhead conductor. An 18" section of the pipe was severed from the 32' length pipe by the arc that resulted from the contact. The pipe to conductor contact also dropped melted aluminum on the victim and on the ground.

On September 7, 2016 at 1030 hours, the Solano County Sherriff's Office found [REDACTED] body under the 12 kV overhead conductor with the irrigation pipe in two sections, and melted aluminum on the ground. On September 16, 2016 at 1100 hours, the Sherriff's Office contacted PG&E in regards to specifications for the conductor, however, the Sherriff did not inform PG&E of the electrocution.

On September 19, 2016, The Sheriff's Office deemed the incident as accidental electrocution and informed PG&E of the electrocution.

On September 21, 2016, I visited the almond orchard where the [REDACTED]'s body was found. The conductor's height at the point of contact was 30'-10" from the ground. This location was the lowest conductor height on the span and is within GO 95 clearance requirements. PG&E's breaker did not operate when the irrigation pipe contacted the fault current may have not been large enough to initiate the minimum trip requirement of 140 Amps. My review of the SCADA plot for the subject circuit found that the fault amperage at approximately 1330 hours on September 5, 2016 was 104 Amps.

While I observed [REDACTED], PG&E Troublemaker, taking measurements of the point of contact, we found evidence of arcing on the conductor (see Figure 1 below).



**Figure 1.** Arcing marks found on the conductor of Davis-1107, 12 kV circuit.

The remaining 26' section of aluminum irrigation pipe was left at the scene (see Figure 2 below). The charring on the pipe is also evidence of high voltage arcing.



**Figure 2.** Remaining 26' section of irrigation pipe severed by electric contact.

The evidence I encountered at the incident site is consistent with the Sheriff's conclusion and PG&E's statements. [REDACTED] accidentally made contact with the Davis-1107 circuit while holding an aluminum irrigation pipe in the vertical position.

**Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:**

<i>General Order</i>	<i>GO Rule</i>	<i>Violation</i>
1 GO 95	37	No
2 D.06-04-055	Appendix B	No

**Conclusion:**

My investigation did not reveal a violation of GO 95 by PG&E.