

1           **Fire Prevention Standards for Electrical Utilities, 2004**

2                           **Proposed Rule Language**

3  
4                           **(15 Day Notice Language Published March 30,2005)**

5  
6   **Amend 14 CCR: § 1251. Definitions**

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8           The following definitions apply to this Article unless the  
9 context requires otherwise.

10           *Defined word or phrase*

11           ~~"Agency which has primary responsibility for fire~~  
12 ~~protection" means the public agency which is the primary agency~~  
13 ~~responsible for fire prevention and suppression on mountainous~~  
14 ~~or forest covered land, brush covered land or grass covered land~~  
15 ~~within its respective jurisdiction.~~

16           "Conductor" means connector, a wire, or a combination of  
17 wires, and/or any other appliance designed and manufactured for  
18 use in the transmission and distribution of electrical current.

19           "Connector" means a ~~splice or a splicing~~ device approved  
20 for energized electrical connections.

21           "Duff" means partially decayed leaves, needles, grass or  
22 other organic material accumulated on the ground.

23           "Firebreak" means a natural or artificial barrier usually  
24 created by the removal or modification of vegetation and other  
25 flammable materials for the purpose of preventing ~~the ignition~~

1 ~~or~~ spread of fire.

2 "Hot line tap or clamp connector" means a connector designed to be used  
3 with a Grip-All Clamp stick (Shotgun) for connecting equipment jumper or tap  
4 conductors to an energized main line or running connector.

5 "Outer Circumference" means the exterior surface of a pole or tree at  
6 ground level or a series of straight lines tangent to the exterior of the  
7 legs of a tower at ground level. (See Figure 1, this Article.)

8 "Self-supporting aerial cable" means an assembly of abrasion resistant  
9 insulated conductors supported by a messenger cable which is normally

10 grounded, designed and manufactured to carry electrical current for  
11 installation on overhead pole lines or other similar overhead structures.

12 "Tree wire" means an insulated conductor covered with a high abrasion  
13 resistant, usually non-metallic, outer covering, designed and manufactured to  
14 carry electrical current for installation on overhead pole lines or other  
15 similar overhead structures.

16 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4292-4293, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
17 Sections 4292-4296, Public Resources Code.

18 **Amend 14 CCR: § 1252. ~~Locations~~ Areas Where PRC 4292,  
19 ~~4293~~ 4296.5 Apply in State Responsibility Areas.**

20 ~~The minimum firebreak and clearance provisions of PRC 4292-~~  
21 ~~4296 are applicable upon~~ The Director will apply PRC 4292-4296.5  
22 in any mountainous land, ~~or~~ forest covered land, brush covered  
23 land or grass covered land within ~~s~~State ~~r~~Responsibility ~~a~~Area  
24 unless specifically exempted by 14 CAC 1255 and 1257.

25 NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4292, 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
Sections 4125-4128, 4292, 4293, Public Resources Code.

**Amend 14 CCR: § 1252.1. Official Area Maps.**

~~Areas where the provisions of PPC 4292-4296 apply are~~  
~~delineated on maps for state responsibility areas, as "Official~~

1 ~~Map State Responsibility Area for Fire Protection,"~~ filed in the  
2 office of the Director, Fire Protection Section 1416 Ninth  
3 Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

4 (a) ~~The official maps are available during normal business~~  
5 ~~office hours for viewing and copying.~~ The official maps defined  
6 in 14 CCR § 1220~~7~~ are available for viewing and copying during  
7 normal business hours at the California Department of Forestry  
8 and Fire Protection, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California,  
9 95814, in the Fire Protection Section.

10 When, pursuant to PRC 4125-4128, the Board revises State  
11 Responsibility Area boundaries, the Director will forward a  
12 description of a boundary change(s) to the respective electric  
13 utility(s) serving the area(s).

14  
15 NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4292, 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
16 Sections 4125-4128, 4292, 4293, Public Resources Code.

17 **Amend 14 CCR: § 1253. Time When PRC 4292-4296 Apply.**

18 ~~The minimum firebreak and clearance provisions of PRC 4292-~~  
19 ~~4296 are applicable when vegetation, whether living or dead, is~~  
20 ~~flammable and will propagate fire (see Figure 2 this Article):~~

21 (a) ~~From May 1 through November 15 the date the director~~  
22 ~~declares, by proclamation, that hazardous fire conditions have~~  
23 ~~abated of each year in the counties of Butte, Colusa, Del Norte,~~  
24 ~~Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa,~~

1 ~~Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano,~~  
2 ~~Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo and Yuba;~~

3 ~~(b) From April 15 through November 30 the date the director~~  
4 ~~declares, by proclamation, that hazardous fire conditions have~~  
5 ~~abated of each year in the counties of Alameda, Alpine, Amador,~~  
6 ~~Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kings, Madera,~~  
7 ~~Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Benito, San~~  
8 ~~Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz,~~  
9 ~~Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne;~~

10 ~~(c) From January 1 through December 31 the date the director~~  
11 ~~declares, by proclamation, that hazardous fire conditions have~~  
12 ~~abated of each year in the counties of Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los~~  
13 ~~Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San~~  
14 ~~Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura.~~

15 Unless otherwise specified by the Director, the minimum  
16 firebreak and clearance provisions of PRC 4292-4296 are  
17 applicable during the declared CDF fire season for a respective  
18 county.

19 NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4292 and 4293, Public Resources Code.  
20 Reference: Sections 4125-4128, 4292 4293, and 4423 Public Resources Code.

21 **Amend 14 CCR: §1254. Minimum Clearance Provisions--PRC 4292**

22 The firebreak clearances required by PRC 4292 are applicable within an  
23 imaginary cylindroidal space surrounding each pole or Tower. Flammable  
24 vegetation and materials located wholly or partially within the firebreak  
25 space shall be treated as follows:

1 (a) At ground level--remove flammable materials, including  
2 but not limited to, ground litter, duff and dead or desiccated  
3 vegetation that will ~~propagate fire~~ allow fire to spread, and;

4 (b) From 0-2.4 m (0-8 feet) above ground level--remove flammable trash,  
5 debris or other materials, grass, herbaceous and brush vegetation. All limbs  
6 and foliage of living trees shall be removed up to a height of 2.4 m (8  
7 feet).

8 (c) From 2.4 m (8 feet) to horizontal plane of highest point of  
9 conductor attachment--remove dead, diseased or dying limbs and foliage from  
10 living sound trees and any dead, diseased or dying trees in their entirety.

11 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4292, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
12 Section 4292, Public Resources Code.

13 **Amend 14 CCR: §1256. Minimum Clearance Provisions--PRC 4293**

14 Minimum clearance required by PRC 4293 shall be maintained  
15 with the specified distances measured at a right angle to the  
16 conductor axis at any location outward throughout an arc of 360  
17 degrees. (See Figure 4 this Article.)

18 ~~Clearance shall include any position through which the~~  
19 ~~conductor may move considering the size and material of which~~  
20 ~~the conductor is made, span length, foreseeable wind velocities~~  
21 ~~for any location and height, species and flammability of~~  
22 ~~adjacent vegetation. Minimum clearance shall take into~~  
23 ~~consideration any position through which the conductor and~~  
24 ~~vegetation may move.~~

25 Minimum clearance shall include:

1           1) any position through which the conductor may move,  
2           considering, among other things, the size and material of the  
3           conductor and its span length;

4           2) any position through which the vegetation may sway,  
5           considering, among other things, the climatic conditions,  
6           including such things as foreseeable wind velocities and  
7           temperature, and location, height and species of the  
8           vegetation.

10 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
11 Sections 4293 and 4296, Public Resources Code.

12  
13 **Amend 14 CCR: § 1257. Exempt Minimum Clearance Provisions--PRC**  
14 **4293.**

15           (a)The minimum clearance provisions of PRC 4293 applicable  
16 in SRA are not required are exempted:

17                   (a1) Where conductors are:

18                           (1a.) insulated tree wire, maintained with the  
19                           high density, abrasion resistant outer covering  
20                           intact, or

21                           (2b.) insulated self-supporting aerial cable,  
22                           maintained with the insulation intact, or

23                           (3c.) supported by sound and living tree trunks  
24                           from which all dead or decadent branches have been  
25                           removed.

                  (b2) On areas described in 14 CAC 1255(c)

1 (eb) ~~Except: These exemptions do not apply where there are~~  
2 ~~to (1) dead and decadent or rotten trees, trees weakened by decay~~  
3 ~~or disease., leaning trees and portions thereof that are leaning~~  
4 ~~toward conductor(s) and any other growth which may fall across~~  
5 ~~the conductor and break it, are removed or trimmed to remove~~  
6 ~~such hazard., and,~~

7 (2) ~~the trunk of any tree is not required to be removed when~~  
8 ~~sound and living, and is the supporting structure to which~~  
9 ~~conductor(s) are attached.~~

10 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
11 Sections 4293 and 4296, Public Resources Code.

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