

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Safety and Enforcement Division**  
**Gas Safety and Reliability Branch**  
**Gas Engineering and Compliance Section**

Incident Investigation Report

**Report Date:** 03/02/2022

**Incident Number:** G 20211017-3289

**Utility:** Pacific Gas and Electric PG&E

**Date and Time of the Incident:** 10/16/2021, 5:07:00 PM

**Location of the Incident:** Market Circle & Hwy 183  
Salinas ,CA  
County: Monterey

**Summary of Incident:**

On 10/16/2021 at approximately 5:07pm, a third-party contractor for the farm was ripping the field when their tractor pulling a digging shank struck a 4-inch gas steel gas distribution main and a 1 ¼-inch steel service line causing a release of natural gas. There were no injuries, no fatalities, and no ignition as a result of this incident. There was no media reported on site. This incident was reported to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) due to the unintentional release of gas estimated to exceed 3 million cubic feet. The third-party excavator did not request for an Underground Service Alert (USA) ticket for the excavation. Based on the information gathered, there is no indication of a probable violation of 49 CFR §192.614(c)(4), §192.614(c)(5) or Government Code 4216 by PG&E at this time.

**Casualties:** *Fatalities:* 0 *Injuries:* 0

**Property Damage:** \$259,195.00

**Utility Facilities involved:**

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 4 (inches), MAOP = 60 (psi), Operating Pressure = 54 (psi)

**Witnesses:**

| <i>Name</i>    | <i>Title</i>      | <i>Phone</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 Wai Yin Chan | CPUC Investigator | N/A          |

**Evidence:**

| <i>Source</i> | <i>Description</i>         |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 PG&E        | 30-Day Supplemental Letter |
| 2 PG&E        | Initial CPUC Form 420      |
| 3 PG&E        | Final CPUC Form 420        |
| 4 PG&E        | Response to Data Request   |
| 5 PG&E        | Form PHMSA F 7100.1        |
| 6 CPUC        | Photographs                |

**Observations and Findings:**

Additional NRC Report numbers submitted by the operator: 1319741

SED reviewed the Operator's Initial, Final, and investigation reports. SED also conducted a field visit at the incident site on 10/18/2021. SED determined that the third-party excavator did not request for an Underground Service Alert (USA) ticket for the excavation. There were no permanent PG&E gas markers visible for the damaged facilities due to the facilities being distribution. According to PG&E investigator's interviews with the damaging party employees, neither the Farming Manager of the farm nor the third-party contractor operating the tractor were aware of this gas distribution line located on the property at the damage location.

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

None

**Conclusion:**

Based on the evidence to date, there is no indication of a probable violation of 49 CFR §192.614(c)(4), §192.614(c)(5) or Government Code 4216 by PG&E at this time.