

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Wildfire Safety and Enforcement Branch



Short Form Investigation Report

Report Date: 1/22/2024

Incident: Landon Fire

Incident Number: E20231109-01

Regulated Utility Involved: Southern California Edison Company (SCE)

Date and Time of the Incident: November 9, 2023, at 0553 hours

Location of Incident: Landon Drive, Jurupa Valley, Riverside County, California
(33.997417, -117.546860)

Fatality/Injury: None reported.

Property Damage: None reported.

Regulated Utility Facilities Involved: Bellgrave 12kV Distribution Circuit

Summary: On November 9, 2023, at approximately 0553 hours, a fire ignited in an empty field south of Landon Drive in Jurupa Valley (the Incident Location) when SCE Pole No. 17174303E fell to the ground. The fire burned approximately 36 acres. The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED), Wildfire Safety and Enforcement Branch (WSEB) initiated an investigation into the incident on November 9, 2023. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) informed SED on November 15, 2023, that they would not conduct an investigation into the Landon Fire because their investigator determined that the pole had been vandalized.¹ WSEB conducted a site visit on November 16, 2023, to visit the incident location and view the incident pole. WSEB received the 20-Day Report on December 12, 2023, and determined that a Data Request was not needed. WSEB determined that SCE was not at fault for the damage to their facilities. As a result, WSEB found no violations of the Commission's General Orders.

Documents Reviewed:

#	Source	Date	Document
1.	SCE	December 12, 2023	20-Day Report
2.	Levecke	December 1, 2023	Security Camera Footage

Rules and Requirements Involved:

WSEB investigated the incident involving SCE facilities for compliance with General Order 95.

Brief Description of Incident:

¹Email from CAL FIRE Assistant Chief Counsel. November 15, 2023.

The Landon Fire ignited in a field in Riverside County on November 9, 2023, when an electric distribution pole owned by SCE was downed. Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) responded to the scene and notified SCE about the downed pole at 0553 hours. SCE personnel later responded to the scene and observed Pole No. 1714303E on the ground along with two overhead primary conductors. Pole No. 1714303E supports overhead distribution facilities on the Bellgrave 12kV circuit out of the Bain substation. SCE determined there was no circuit relay activity, but SCE personnel indicated two fuses operated at Pole No. 4826125E upstream of the downed pole. SCE personnel also observed a blade-like object near the base of the pole. The Landon Fire burned approximately 36 acres before being contained. Repairs to the involved facilities were conducted on the same day as the incident.² **Figure 1** below shows a map of the Incident Location.

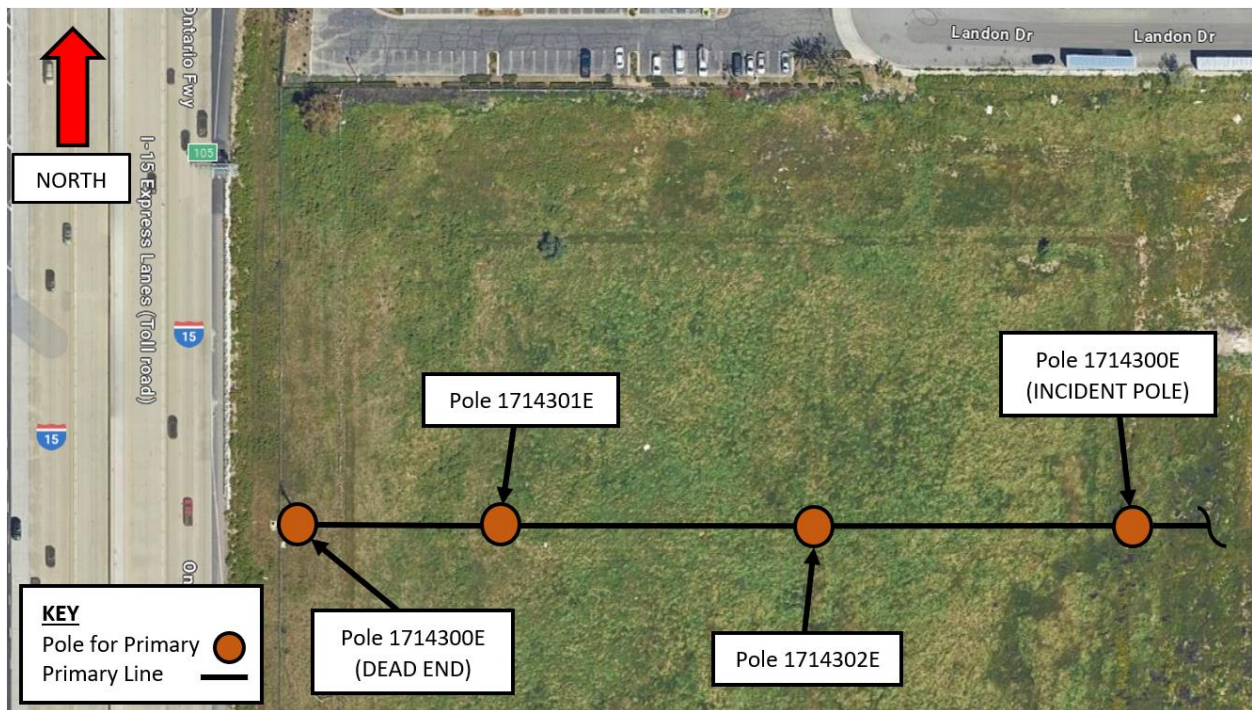


Figure 1: Location of poles and lines marked by SED staff based on images visible from Google Earth. Pole numbers based on field observations on November 16, 2023.

² Southern California Edison Company. “Electric Incident Report Form – CPUC 315 Letter” (20-Day Report), Page 1. December 12, 2023.



Figure 2: Burn scars visible at Incident Location during SED site visit on November 16, 2023.



Figure 3: Pole No. 1714303E downed at Incident Location on November 9, 2023.

Findings:

SED began investigating the Landon Fire incident on November 9, 2023, when SCE reported the incident through the CPUC website due to significant negative media coverage. On November 15, 2023, CAL FIRE informed SED that they would not be investigating the incident because that the incident pole had been vandalized.

On November 16, 2023, WSEB conducted a site visit and met with SCE Senior Advisor Jose Moran at the dead-end of Landon Drive in Jurupa Valley, California. Jose Moran escorted SED to incident Pole No. 1714303E. SCE replaced the damaged pole the day of the incident after the fire was contained. **Figure 4** shows the replaced pole and equipment present at the time of the site visit. SCE showed SED a picture of the blade-like object that SCE believes was used to cut down the incident pole.



Figure 4: Replaced Pole No. 1714303E and equipment as seen by SED on November 16, 2023.



Figure 5: Blade-like object photographed by SCE personnel on November 9, 2023, next to the fallen pole.

SED then traveled to the SCE Service Center located at 7951 Redwood Avenue in Fontana, California. SCE escorted SED to the yard and viewed the damaged pole. SCE had cut the damaged pole for easier transportation from the Incident Location, but the cuts made for transportation were cleanly cut and evident. SED investigators were able to observe the portion of the pole that had been most likely cut by the blade-like object photographed at the Incident Location. The damaged portion of the pole was clearly distinct from the cuts made for transportation because the pole was not cut cleanly through. This damaged portion of the pole was approximately 30 inches above ground level, as measured by SED.



Figure 6: Pole No. 1714303E cut into sections for transportation and stored at the SCE yard.



Figure 7: Bottom half of Pole No. 1714303E showing where the pole was most likely cut by the blade-like object.

On December 1, 2023, SED received security footage from a nearby business, which SCE Senior Advisor Jose Moran had recommended SED contact. SED investigators reviewed the security footage and were not able to conclusively determine if an individual vandalized Pole No. 1714303E, due to the angle of the camera not showing the field adjacent to Landon Drive. SED concluded that the pole was downed around approximately 0520 hours due to observing three flashes on the security footage followed by power going out to nearby streetlights.



Figure 8: Security footage of Levecke parking lot with streetlight before suspected fire ignition.



Figure 9: Security footage showing parking lot after ignition and power being lost to streetlight.

On December 12, 2023, SED received the 20-Day Report from SCE. WSEB reviewed the 20-Day Report and determined that a data request would not be needed, due to the evidence indicating that the pole was most likely vandalized. CAL FIRE also determined that the pole had

been vandalized, as it stated to SED on November 15, 2023. SED found no reason to pursue the incident further.

SED analyzed evidence and determined that SCE is not responsible for the damage that caused Pole No. 1714303E to fall and ignite the Landon Fire due to the presence of the blade-like object at the incident location and characteristics of the cut. SED agrees with CAL FIRE that the pole was vandalized.

The Assigned Engineer has reviewed the evidence and discussed the incident with the SED Supervisor, who has concluded that the incident does not warrant a full investigation. Therefore, the incident is closed, and no other report will be prepared at this time.

If SED becomes aware of additional information that could modify SED's findings in this report, SED may re-open the investigation. If so, SED may modify this report and take further actions as appropriate.