
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/14/2021 1:29:22 PM
Subject: Update: Mercury News (Fiona Kelliher) - Dixie Fire Near Paradise Explodes Across 1,200 Acres in Less Than a Day

The following coverage has updated and now includes PG&E statement:

Pacific Gas & Electric's Caribou-Palermo transmission line — which has since been permanently de-energized — sparked the Camp Fire three years ago in the same Feather River Canyon area, east of Pulga. There are several other PG&E lines that run through the same region, Gaddie confirmed.

In an emailed statement, a PG&E spokesperson said that the utility has de-energized the lines, cutting off power to around 10,000 people in Plumas County. The spokesperson did not respond directly to questions about whether the utility is investigating any potential involvement with the fire, noting only that it “is near the footprint of the Camp Fire.”

PG&E did not appear to have filed a report to the California Public Utilities Commission, which is required within two to four hours when serious electrical incidents occur.

Dixie Fire Near Paradise Explodes Across 1,200 Acres in Less Than a Day

Blaze broke out Tuesday in Butte County and quickly grew

By FIONA KELLIHER (Bay Area News Group)

Mercury News, July 14, 2021

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/14/dixie-fire-near-paradise-explodes-across-500-acres-overnight/>

Firefighters scrambled to contain a rapidly-growing wildfire near the town of Paradise that has engulfed more than 1,200 acres in less than a day.

The Dixie Fire, which broke out Tuesday near Highway 70 in Butte County, had burned just two acres of vegetation when crews arrived to douse it with fire retardant and water, according to the Cal FIRE Butte Unit. But overnight, the blaze spread to 60 acres and had encompassed about 1,200 acres within hours.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office has issued an evacuation warning for the Pulga and East Concow areas, but fire officials said that flames were burning entirely into Plumas County, away from populated areas.

The fire started at Dixie Road and Camp Creek Road, near where the deadly Camp Fire ravaged the surrounding communities of Paradise, Concow and Pulga communities in 2018. John Gaddie, fire captain with the Butte Unit, said that investigators have not determined how the fire began.

Pacific Gas & Electric's Caribou-Palermo transmission line — which has since been permanently de-energized — sparked the Camp Fire three years ago in the same Feather River Canyon area, east of Pulga. There are several other PG&E lines that run through the same region, Gaddie confirmed.

In an emailed statement, a PG&E spokesperson said that the utility has de-energized the lines, cutting off

power to around 10,000 people in Plumas County. The spokesperson did not respond directly to questions about whether the utility is investigating any potential involvement with the fire, noting only that it “is near the footprint of the Camp Fire.”

PG&E did not appear to have filed a report to the California Public Utilities Commission, which is required within two to four hours when serious electrical incidents occur.

Crews are struggling to access the fire because of the steep terrain, deep canyons and limited roads that define the area, Gaddie said, and it remains 0% contained. About 150 personnel were on scene with more resources requested; Gaddie did not have an estimation of how many people would ultimately arrive throughout the coming days.

The latest Northern California wildfire arrived as crews finally stamped down the spread of the Beckwourth Complex Fire, located east of Dixie in Plumas and Lassen counties. Comprised of the Dotta and Sugar fires, the Beckwourth blaze burned about 95,000 acres over the course of two weeks and was 71% contained as of Wednesday.

Firefighters got the upper hand as they formed strong containment lines along much of the fire’s eastern flank near Nevada Tuesday, the U.S. Forest Service said. Some evacuation orders in both counties have since been downgraded.

The Dixie Fire is meanwhile burning to the north and northwest of its ignition point, sparing nearby communities. Still, Gaddie urged all residents in the remote region to continue checking Sheriff’s Office updates and review their own evacuation plans.

“I’m not saying where this fire is going to go, or how fast it’s going to go, but be prepared,” Gaddie said. “Please pay attention.”

Karl Mondon contributed to this report. Check back for updates.



Marketing and Communications | Pacific Gas and Electric Company

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:45 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Update: Mercury News (Fiona Kelliher) - Dixie Fire Near Paradise Explodes Across 1,200 Acres in Less Than a Day

The following coverage has updated to include PG&E mentions below:

Pacific Gas & Electric’s Caribou-Palermo transmission line — which has since been permanently de-energized — sparked the Camp Fire three years ago in the same Feather River Canyon area, east of Pulga. There are two other PG&E lines that run through the same region, Gaddie confirmed.

PG&E did not immediately respond to a request for comment as to whether those lines were running and if the utility is investigating, but did not appear to have filed an incident report to the California Public Utilities Commission as of Wednesday morning.

Dixie Fire Near Paradise Explodes Across 1,200 Acres in Less Than a Day

Blaze broke out Tuesday in Butte County and quickly grew

By FIONA KELLIHER (Bay Area News Group)

Mercury News, July 14, 2021

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/14/dixie-fire-near-paradise-explodes-across-500-acres-overnight/>

Firefighters are scrambling to contain a rapidly-growing wildfire near the town of Paradise that has engulfed more than 1,200 acres in less than a day.

The Dixie Fire, which broke out Tuesday near Highway 70 in Butte County, had burned just two acres of vegetation when crews arrived to douse it with fire retardant and water, according to the Cal FIRE Butte Unit. But overnight, the blaze spread to 60 acres and had encompassed about 1,200 acres within hours Wednesday morning.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office has issued an evacuation warning for the Pulga and East Concow areas.

The fire started at Dixie Road and Camp Creek Road, located about 15 miles northeast of the site of the deadly Camp Fire that ravaged Paradise, Concow and Pulga communities in 2018. John Gaddie, fire captain with the Butte Unit, said that investigators have not determined how the fire began.

Pacific Gas & Electric's Caribou-Palermo transmission line — which has since been permanently de-energized — sparked the Camp Fire three years ago in the same Feather River Canyon area, east of Pulga. There are two other **PG&E** lines that run through the same region, Gaddie confirmed.

PG&E did not immediately respond to a request for comment as to whether those lines were running and if the utility is investigating, but did not appear to have filed an incident report to the California Public Utilities Commission as of Wednesday morning.

Crews had not been able to get a grip on the fire as of Wednesday morning and it remained 0% contained. About 150 personnel were on scene Wednesday morning, with a request for more resources, though Gaddie did not have an estimation of how many people would ultimately arrive throughout the day.

Crews are struggling to access the fire because of steep terrain, deep canyons and limited roads that define the area, he said.

The blaze is burning to the north and northwest for now — away from populated areas — but winds may be unpredictable for the rest of the day, according to Cal Fire. Gaddie urged residents of surrounding communities to continue checking Sheriff's Office updates and review their own evacuation plans.

"I'm not saying where this fire is going to go, or how fast it's going to go, but be prepared," Gaddie said. "Please pay attention."

Karl Mondon contributed to this report.

Check back for updates.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FYI: Mercury News (Fiona Kelliher) - Dixie Fire Near Paradise Explodes Across 500 Acres Overnight

Fyi, just passing along below coverage for awareness. PG&E was not mentioned.

Dixie Fire Near Paradise Explodes Across 500 Acres Overnight

Blaze broke out Tuesday in Butte County and quickly grew

By FIONA KELLIHER (Bay Area News Group)

Mercury News, July 14, 2021

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/14/dixie-fire-near-paradise-explodes-across-500-acres-overnight/>

Firefighters are scrambling to contain a rapidly-growing wildfire near the town of Paradise that has engulfed more than 500 acres overnight.

The Dixie Fire, which broke out Tuesday near Highway 70 in Butte County, had burned just two acres of vegetation when crews arrived to douse it with fire retardant and water, according to the Cal FIRE Butte Unit. But overnight, the blaze spread to 60 acres — and just six hours later had hit 500 acres.

The fire started at Dixie Road and Camp Creek Road, located about 45 minutes northeast of the site of the deadly Camp Fire that ravaged Paradise — and surrounding communities of Concow and Pulga — in 2018.

Crews had not been able to get a grip on the fire as of Wednesday morning and it remained 0% contained. Fifty-eight personnel were on scene Tuesday night, but Cal Fire anticipated a “large resource order” to arrive Wednesday, it said.

Check back for updates.



| Marketing and Communications | Pacific Gas and Electric Company | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Mercury News inquiry on lines near Dixie Fire

Thanks [REDACTED] Folks – Please send any inquiries on the Dixie Fire to [REDACTED] and myself. We are working on approved TPs. No one else should be talking to reporters on this. Thanks for forwarding [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:13 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Mercury News inquiry on lines near Dixie Fire

Hi all – see the below request from the Mercury News. I have not responded, of course.

[REDACTED] | Marketing & Communications | PG&E
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:11 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mercury News inquiry on lines near Dixie Fire

*******CAUTION: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Think before clicking links or opening attachments.*******

Hi there,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a reporter with the Mercury News. We're reporting on the Dixie Fire in Butte County today and have several questions if you can please get back to me ASAP -- my cell is [REDACTED] if that's easier.

--The fire was sparked near Dixie Road and Camp Creek Road, east of Pulga. PG&E's now-de-energized Caribou-Palermo transmission runs parallel to the two other lines in the area (Feather River canyon area east of Pulga). Can you please affirm the names of the two other lines and explain whether they are currently energized/operational?

--Cal Fire said that investigators have not determined how the fire began. At this time, does PG&E have any comment as to whether its transmission lines may have been involved?

--Is PG&E investigating or reviewing its transmission lines in relation to the Dixie Fire? Is there any information as to whether those lines experienced any unusual events or malfunctions recently?

Thanks very much,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] Breaking News Reporter | Editorial
[REDACTED]

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