
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/14/2021 10:44:43 AM
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.



Marketing and Communications | Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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

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.

| Marketing & Communications | PG&E

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]



bayareanewsgroup.com

Over 5 million engaged readers weekly

The Mercury News EAST BAY TIMES *Marin Independent Journal*

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS. SUBSCRIBE NOW!