

1 **1 - VIOLATIONS:**

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3 **California Public Resources Code §4293.**

4 Except as otherwise provided in Sections 4294 to 4296, inclusive, any person that
5 owns, controls, operates, or maintains any electrical transmission or distribution line
6 upon any mountainous land, or in forest-covered land, brush-covered land, or grass-
7 covered land shall, during such times and in such areas as are determined to be
8 necessary by the director or the agency which has primary responsibility for the fire
9 protection of such areas, maintain a clearance of the respective distances which are
10 specified in this section in all directions between all vegetation and all conductors which
11 are carrying electric current:

12 (a) For any line which is operating at 2,400 or more volts, but less than 72,000 volts,
13 four feet.

14 (b) For any line which is operating at 72,000 or more volts, but less than 110,000 volts,
15 six feet.

16 (c) For any line which is operating at 110,000 or more volts, 10 feet.

17 In every case, such distance shall be sufficiently great to furnish the required clearance
18 at any position of the wire, or conductor when the adjacent air temperature is 120
19 degrees Fahrenheit, or less. Dead trees, old decadent or rotten trees, trees weakened
20 by decay or disease and trees or portions thereof that are leaning toward the line which
21 may contact the line from the side or may fall on the line shall be felled, cut, or trimmed
22 so as to remove such hazard. The director or the agency which has primary
23 responsibility for the fire protection of such areas may permit exceptions from the
24 requirements of this section which are based upon the specific circumstances involved.

25

26 **California Public Resources Code §4421.**

27 A person shall not set fire or cause fire to be set to any forest, brush, or other flammable
28 material which is on any land that is not his own, or under his legal control, without the
29 permission of the owner, lessee, or agent of the owner or lessee of the land.

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1 **California Health and Safety Code §13007**

2 Any person who personally or through another willfully, negligently, or in violation of law,
3 sets fire to, allows fire to be set to, or allows a fire kindled or attended by him to escape
4 to, the property of another, whether privately or publicly owned, is liable to the owner of
5 such property for any damages to the property caused by the fire.

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1 **2 - SUMMARY:**

2 On Sunday, October 8th, 2017, at approximately 10:35 PM, Redwood Empire Dispatch
3 and Communications Authority (REDCOM) dispatched a reported structure fire in the
4 area of 16250 Norrbom Road, near the city of Sonoma. Arriving resources found a
5 vegetation fire approximately one quarter acre in size with no structures involved, the
6 incident was named the Norrbom Fire. For the purpose of this report, further references
7 to this fire will be made as the Norrbom 1 Fire. The origin and cause investigation
8 determined the Norrbom 1 Fire was caused by a tree falling into electrical conductors,
9 owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), which caused burning tree
10 material or sparks to fall and ignite the ground litter below.

11
12 On Monday, October 9th, 2017, at approximately 12:40 PM, resources responded to a
13 report of a smoke column in the area of Norrbom Road and Gehricke Road, near the
14 city of Sonoma. The fire was described as thirty to forty acres in size, in the drainage
15 and on the hillside above the Norrbom 1 Fire, the incident was named the Norrbom Fire.
16 For the purpose of this report, further references to this fire will be made as the Norrbom
17 2 Fire. The origin and cause investigation of the Norrbom 2 Fire determined it was the
18 result of the Norrbom 1 Fire escaping through handline.

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20 The Norrbom Fire was considered a single incident with one incident number. The
21 Norrbom Fire burned approximately 1,836 acres before it combined with, and became,
22 the Nuns Fire.

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1 **3 – SUSPECT:**

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3 Pacific Gas and Electric Company

4 77 Beale Street 24th Floor

5 San Francisco, California 94105

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1 **4 - VICTIMS**

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3 V-1 4400 Cavedale Associates

4 APN 053-060-034

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6 V-2 BARBER, Paul and Christina

7 APN [REDACTED]

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9 V-3 Bismark Group

10 APN 034060005000

11 034110001000

12

13 V-4 CAIN, Ronald Jay

14 APN [REDACTED]

15

16 V-5 COTURI, Phillip Joseph and KREMER, Arden Beth

17 APN [REDACTED]

18

19 V-6 Devils Canyon LLC

20 APN 034110033000

21

22 V-7 ENGLESBE, Andrew and Laurie

23 APN [REDACTED]

24

25 V-8 FARM, Sky

26 APN [REDACTED]

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28 V-9 GOLD, Ronald and Eileen

29 APN [REDACTED]

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- 1 V-10 HAMMETT, Kirk and Lani
- 2 APN [REDACTED]
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- 4 V-11 HANNA, Elias
- 5 APN [REDACTED]
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- 7 V-12 HANNA, Christine and MADDEN, Noel
- 8 APN [REDACTED]
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- 11 V-13 HAWLEY, William and Susan
- 12 APN [REDACTED]
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- 16 V-14 Icon LLC
- 17 APN 127-011-030
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- 19 V-15 KAMEN, Robert and The Robert KAMEN Living Trust
- 20 APN [REDACTED]
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- 22 V-16 KEEN, Samuel
- 23 APN [REDACTED]
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- 25 V-17 KOESTERICH, Russell and Alice
- 26 APN [REDACTED]
- 27
- 28 V-18 KUBLER, Warren and The Warren H. KUBLER Survivors Trust
- 29 APN [REDACTED]
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- 1 V-19 LAYMAN, Lynn
- 2 APN [REDACTED]
- 3
- 4 V-20 MCADAMS, Steven and KOPLOW, Hilarie
- 5 APN [REDACTED]
- 6
- 7 V-21 MCADAMS KOPLOW Family Trust and KOPLAW, Hilarie
- 8
- 9 V-22 Momtazee Real Estate Investment LLC
- 10 APN 127-011-001
- 11
- 12 V-23 Mountain Estates Vineyards LLC
- 13 APN 127-011-025
- 14
- 15 V-24 MXB Family Limited Partnership
- 16 APN [REDACTED]
- 17 [REDACTED]
- 18 [REDACTED]
- 19 [REDACTED]
- 20 [REDACTED]
- 21 [REDACTED]
- 22
- 23 V-25 Napa County Land Trust
- 24 APN 034110050000
- 25 034110053000
- 26 034110055000
- 27 034110056000
- 28 034110057000
- 29 034110058000

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- 1 V-26 NORRBOM, Peter and Peter NORRBOM Trust
- 2 APN [REDACTED]
- 3 V-27 PRICE, Charles and Carol
- 4 APN [REDACTED]
- 5
- 6 V-28 SIMONS, Nathaniel and BAXTER SIMONS, Laura
- 7 APN [REDACTED]
- 8 [REDACTED]
- 9 [REDACTED]
- 10
- 11 V-29 Terra LLC
- 12 APN 034110004000
- 13
- 14 V-30 ZUCKERMAN, David and ROSENBERG, Elsa
- 15 APN [REDACTED]
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18 List was compiled based on the last available perimeter map of the Norrbom Fire before
19 it combined with, and became, the Nuns Fire.

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1 **WITNESSES:**

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3 CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Vince BERGLAND

4 1234 East Shaw Avenue

5 Fresno, California 93710

6 (559) 243-4115

7 Assisted in the origin and cause investigation of the Norrbom Fire.

8

9 CAL FIRE Assistant Chief Shawn ZIMMERMAKER

10 6105 Airport Road

11 Redding, California 96002

12 (530) 226-3477

13 Requested Chief BERGLAND to respond to the Norrbom Incident to conduct an origin
14 and cause investigation.

15

16 Ken FINN

17 Schell Vista Fire Protection District, Board Member

18 (707) 217-0328

19 Was riding with MULAS on Monday, October 9, 2017, when they located the Norrbom 2
20 Fire.

21

22 Mike MULAS

23 Schell Vista Fire Protection District, Assistant Chief

24 22950 Broadway

25 Sonoma, California 95476

26 Office (707) 938-2633

27 Cell (707) 695-8930

28 Responded to the Norrbom 1 and Norrbom 2 Fires.

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31

1 Patrick Michael LECOMPTE

2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 CA DL [REDACTED]

6 DOB: [REDACTED]

7 Contractor working for PG&E whose crew fixed conductor lines within the fire area.

8

9 CAL FIRE Fire Captain Mark HILSKOTTER

10 697 CA-36

11 Susanville, California 96130

12 (530) 257-4171

13 Assisted with the origin and cause investigation of the Norrbom Fire.

14

15 CAL FIRE Assistant Chief Dan WHITE

16 6105 Airport Road

17 Redding, California 96002

18 (530) 226-3477

19

20 SVT Gruppe INC

21 PO Box 270

22 Napa, California 94559-0270

23 (707) 927-2200

24 Provided security of the Norrbom 1 and Norrbom 2 GOA's.

25

26 Mark's Tree Service and Consulting Arborist Mark PORTER

27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

29 [REDACTED]

30 Evaluated the subject tree in the Norrbom 1 Fire.

31

1 Jeff HARMON

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 Cell [REDACTED]

5 Saw the smoke on Monday, October 9, 2017, from the Norrbom 2 Fire and called 911.

6

7 CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Matt GILBERT

8 785 Mountain Ranch Road

9 San Andreas, California 95249

10 (209) 754-3831

11 Brought the survey team to the Norrbom Fire.

12

13 CAL FIRE Senior Land Surveyor James DEGRAFF

14 Technical Services Section

15 1300 U Street, Suite 100

16 PO Box 944246

17 Sacramento, California 94244-2460

18 (916) 445-7804

19

20 CAL FIRE Transportation Survey Party Chief Jeff GAWRONSKI

21 Technical Services Section

22 1300 U Street, Suite 100

23 PO Box 944246

24 Sacramento, California 94244-2460

25 (916) 445-7804

26

27 CAL FIRE Fire Captain Sean JERRY

28 1199 Big Tree Road

29 Saint Helena, California 94574

30 (707) 967-1400

31 Assisted with the collection of evidence from the Norrbom 1 Fire.
LE80 (Rev. 7/2011)

1 Phillip COTURRI

2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]

4 Cell [REDACTED]

5 CA DL: [REDACTED]

6 DOB: [REDACTED]

7 Saw the glow of fire (Norrbon 1 Fire) and emergency lights from his home on Sunday,
8 October 8, 2017. Went to the location of the Norrbom 2 Fire on the morning of Monday,
9 October 9, 2017, to attempt suppression.

10

11 CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Jake DELLAMONICA

12 6059 Highway 9

13 Felton, California 95018-0316

14 (831) 335-5355

15 Spoke to J. HARMON at the Norrbom Fire.

16

17 Suzanne HARMON

18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]

20 Cell [REDACTED]

21 On Monday, October 9, 2017 at approximately 7:15 AM, she saw smoke down canyon,
22 to the south west of her residence (Norrbon 2 Fire).

23

24 CAL FIRE Fire Captain Gary UBOLDI

25 1199 Big Tree Road

26 Saint Helena, California 94574

27 (707) 967-1400

28 Assisted with evidence collection and conducted an interview with J. HARMON and S.
29 HARMON.

30

31

1 PG&E Senior Claims Investigator Maria DE LUCA

2 300 Burnell Street

3 Napa, California 94559

4 (707) 331-5953

5 Was present when electrical conductor lines were collected from Norrbom 1 Fire.

6

7 California Public Utilities Commission Engineer Wilson TSAI

8 505 Van Ness Avenue

9 San Francisco, California 94102

10 (415) 703-2236

11

12 California Public Utilities Commission Engineer Raymond CHO

13 505 Van Ness Avenue

14 San Francisco, California 94102

15 (415) 703-1359

16

17 Peter NORRBOM

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 Home [REDACTED]

21 Cell [REDACTED]

22 CA DL: [REDACTED]

23 DOB: [REDACTED]

24 Was alerted of the Norrbom 1 Fire on Monday, October 9, 2017, by his employee Juan

25 HERRERA.

26

27 Juan Pablo Raya HERRERA

28 [REDACTED]

29 [REDACTED]

30 Cell [REDACTED]

31 Washington DL: [REDACTED]
LE80 (Rev. 7/2011)

1 Worked for NORRBOM. Went to NORRBOM's property at approximately 5:30 AM on
2 Monday, October 9, 2017. Saw the fire hoses and the Norrbom 1 Fire. Attempted to
3 extinguish a flaming tree with water from a bucket. Advised NORRBOM of the fire.
4 Returned to NORRBOM's property between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM and saw the
5 Norrbom 2 Fire.

6
7 Robert KAMEN

8 DOB: [REDACTED]

9 CA DL: [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]

12 Home: [REDACTED]

13 Cell: [REDACTED]

14 Saw the Norrbom 1 Fire on October 8, and called 911, the next morning he saw the fire
15 had flared up in the same area as the night prior (Norrbom 2 Fire).

16
17 Laurence DICKINSON

18 DOB: [REDACTED]

19 CA DL: [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]

22 Cell: [REDACTED]

23 General Manager for the properties at 16705 and 16250 Norrbom Road. Responded to
24 the properties from his residence at the time of the fire and took digital photographs.

25
26 JH Nolt and Associates, James Nolt

27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]
29 [REDACTED]

30 Reviewed photographs of evidence.

31

1 **5 - EVIDENCE:**

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3 Collected from Norrbom 1 Fire

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5 Evidence Item #1

6 Base of branch. Excised from branch which fell from tree. Collected on October
7 15, 2017, at 11:56AM and secured in the CAL FIRE Middletown evidence
8 storage at 3:37 PM.

9

10 Evidence Item #1-A

11 Branch with scrape marks and charring. Excised from branch which fell from
12 tree. Collected on October 15, 2017, at 11:45AM and secured in the CAL FIRE
13 Middletown evidence storage at 3:37 PM.

14

15 Evidence Item #1-B

16 Branch with scrape marks and charring. Excised from branch which fell from
17 tree. Collected on October 15, 2017, at 11:45AM and secured in the CAL FIRE
18 Middletown evidence storage at 3:37 PM.

19

20 Evidence Item #1-C

21 Branch with scrape marks and charring. Excised from branch which fell from
22 tree. Collected on October 15, 2017, at 11:45AM and secured in the CAL FIRE
23 Middletown evidence storage at 3:37 PM.

24

25 Evidence Item #1-D

26 Branch with scrape marks and charring. Excised from branch which fell from
27 tree. Collected on October 15, 2017, at 11:45AM and secured in the CAL FIRE
28 Middletown evidence storage at 3:37 PM.

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1 Evidence Item #1-E

2 Branch with charring. Excised from branch which fell from tree. Collected on
3 October 15, 2017, at 12:00 PM and secured in the CAL FIRE Middletown
4 evidence storage at 3:37 PM.

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6 Evidence Item #2

7 Conductor line from downhill side of pole, marked with white tape. Collected on
8 October 18, 2018, at 12:44 PM and secured in the CAL FIRE Santa Rosa
9 evidence storage at 3:23 PM.

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11 Evidence Item #3

12 Conductor line from uphill side of pole, marked with red tape. Collected on
13 October 18, 2018, at 1:12 PM and secured in the CAL FIRE Santa Rosa
14 evidence storage at 3:23 PM.

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17 At the times of evidence collection, I was not aware if an incident number had been
18 assigned to the Norrbom Fire. Once the incident number was obtained, it was added to
19 the evidence tags.

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1 **6 – CONDITIONS:**

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3 The Norrbom 1 and Norrbom 2 GOA's were located in an area of predominantly grass
4 and oak woodland. The area was generally flat transitioning down in a north facing
5 slope. The Norrbom 1 GOA contained multiple trees and associated ground litter
6 including leaves. The Norrbom 2 GOA was predominantly grass with more brush and
7 trees towards the east.

8

9 **Weather**

10

11 **STATION INFO**

12 ID: F11WW

13 NAME: Sonoma Valley - Bedrock

14 LATITUDE: 38.33951

15 LONGITUDE: -122.50504

16 ELEVATION: 173 ft

17 MNET: WWG-SONOMA

18 LAND COVER: 2001 USGS

19 DATA COURTESY OF:

20 Western Weather Group

21

22 Distance from GOA's approximately 3.45 miles northeast.

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24 **Norrbon 1**

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26 October 8, 2017, at 10:00 PM:

27 Temperature: 72.4°F

28 Relative Humidity: 10%

29 Wind: N at 10.6 MPH with gusts to 30.9 MPH

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1 October 8, 2017, at 11:00 PM:
2 Temperature: 71.6°F
3 Relative Humidity: 10%
4 Wind: N at 11.9 MPH with gusts to 40.3 MPH

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6 **Norrbon 2**

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8 October 9, 2017 at 5:00 AM:
9 Temperature: 68.7°F
10 Relative Humidity: 10%
11 Wind: NNW at 8.2 MPH with gusts to 20.2 MPH

12

13 October 9, 2017 at 8:00 AM:
14 Temperature: 68.2°F
15 Relative Humidity: 11%
16 Wind: N at 8.1 MPH with gusts to 20.5 MPH

17

18

19 STATION INFO

20 ID: F62WW

21 NAME: Sonoma SE - Napoli

22 LATITUDE: 38.26403

23 LONGITUDE: -122.41541

24 ELEVATION: 70 ft

25 MNET: WWG-SONOMA

26 LAND COVER: 2001 USGS

27 DATA COURTESY OF:

28 Western Weather Group

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30 Distance from GOA's approximately 4.8 miles southeast.

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Norrbom 1

October 8, 2017, at 10:00 PM:

Temperature: 74.8 °F

Relative Humidity: 11%

Wind: NNE at 9.8 MPH with gusts to 30.6 MPH

October 8, 2017, at 11:00 PM:

Temperature: 73.7 °F

Relative Humidity: 11%

Wind: NNE at 13.2 MPH with gusts to 32.9 MPH

Norrbom 2

October 9, 2017, at 5:00 AM:

Temperature: 68.2°F

Relative Humidity: 14%

Wind: N at 5.7 MPH with gusts to 15.8 MPH

October 9, 2017 at 8:00 AM:

Temperature: 68.3°F

Relative Humidity: 13%

Wind: NNW at 7.5 MPH with gusts to 22.2 MPH

1 **7 – VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT:**

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3 No vehicles or equipment to report.

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1 **8 - PROPERTY:**

2 The Norrbom Incident originated on the following property:

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4 APN: [REDACTED]

5 Address: [REDACTED]

6 Owners: SIMONS, Nathaniel Henry and BAXTER-SIMONS, Laura – [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8

9 **Norrbom 1 Fire SOA**

10 Latitude: [REDACTED]

11 Longitude: [REDACTED]

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13 **Norrbom 2 Fire SOA**

14 Latitude: [REDACTED]

15 Longitude: [REDACTED]

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1 **9 - NARRATIVE:**

2 On Sunday, October 8, 2017, at approximately 10:35 PM, REDCOM dispatched a
3 reported structure fire in the area of 16250 Norrbom Road, near the city of Sonoma.
4 Arriving resources found a vegetation fire approximately one quarter acre in size with no
5 structures involved, the incident was named the Norrbom Fire (Norrbon 1 Fire).

6

7 On Monday October 9, 2017, at approximately 12:40 PM, resources responded to a
8 report of a smoke column in the area of Norrbom Road and Gehricke Road, near the
9 city of Sonoma. The initial report on conditions was thirty to forty acres in size, in the
10 drainage and on the hillside above the Norrbom 1 Fire, the incident was named
11 Norrbom (Norrbon 2 Fire).

12

13 The Norrbom Fire (Norrbon 1 Fire and Norrbom 2 Fire) was initially part of the LNU
14 Southern Complex and was subsequently moved to the LNU Central Complex. The last
15 available perimeter map of the Norrbom Fire showed 1,836 acres burned, as of October
16 10th, 2017. The Norrbom Fire later combined with, and became, the Nuns Fire.

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18 On Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at approximately 12:30 PM, CAL FIRE Battalion
19 Chief Vince BERGLAND was requested by CAL FIRE Assistant Chief Shawn
20 ZIMMERMAKER to respond to the Norrbom Fire to investigate the origin and cause.
21 (See Attachment 10)

22

23 Chief ZIMMERMAKER provided Chief BERGLAND with contact information for Ken
24 FINN and advised him FINN may have had information regarding the fire. Chief
25 BERGLAND called FINN who told him he was riding with Schell Vista Fire Protection
26 District (SVFPD) Assistant Chief Mike MULAS on Monday, October 9, and they located
27 a vegetation fire at 16250 Norrbom Road (Norrbon 2 Fire). FINN provided Chief
28 BERGLAND with contact information for Chief MULAS. (See attachment 10)

29

30 On Wednesday, October 11th, Chief BERGLAND met with Chief MULAS in the City of
31 Sonoma. Chief MULAS told Chief BERGLAND he responded on October 8, 2017, at
LE80 (Rev. 7/2011)

1 10:37 PM with SVFPD resources to a reported structure fire at 16250 Norrbom Road.
2 Chief MULAS led Chief BERGLAND to the location of the fire at approximately 1:50 PM.
3 Chief MULAS told Chief BERGLAND; upon arrival, he found a vegetation fire
4 approximately one quarter acre in size with no structures involved (Norrbon 1 Fire).
5 Chief MULAS reported winds out of the north at approximately 40 MPH and gusting to
6 approximately 55 MPH. Chief MULAS told Chief BERGLAND firefighters kept the fire
7 south of the gravel road and east of the water tanks. The east side of the fire was
8 contained by a hose lay and firefighters cut handline on the east flank. On Wednesday,
9 October 9, 2017 at approximately 12:40 PM, Chief MULAS and FINN were advised of a
10 smoke column. They responded to the area and located what Chief MULAS described
11 as a vegetation fire, thirty to forty acres in size immediately north east of the fire which
12 he responded to the night prior (Norrbon 1). He told Chief BERGLAND, the fire was in
13 the drainage and on the hillside above the previous quarter acre fire. (See attachment
14 10)

15
16 Following the interview with Chief MULAS, Chief BERGLAND began the origin and
17 cause investigation of the Norrbom 1 Fire. Chief BERGLAND walked the perimeter of
18 the fire counter clockwise, starting at the fence line where the hand line was tied in.
19 Chief BERGLAND observed the fence to be to separate fences approximately four feet
20 apart. The area of fencing he walked through was partially cut, there was firefighting
21 hose in the opening, some of which was burned. Chief BERGLAND observed the area
22 between the two fences to be burned connecting the Norrbom and Norrbom 2 (P-VB-
23 035, 041). Chief BERGLAND walked down the handline to the north towards the gravel
24 road. At the gravel road, he observed the handline appeared to be incomplete and
25 contained burned vegetation outside the handline (P-VB-043). He walked up the fence
26 line towards the south (P-VB-050). Chief BERGLAND observed macro indicators, angle
27 of char, depth of char, and scorch marks on three trunks and at the base of small
28 bushes. He noticed suspended electrical conductors in an east and west direction over
29 the burned area. Chief BERGLAND returned to the gravel road and walked back and
30 forth from the east and west working from north to south. As he entered the brush area
31 he started dropping colored flags at observed fire spread indicators. This area became
LE80 (Rev. 7/2011)

1 his general origin area (GOA) approximately 50 feet x 50 feet (P-VB-051 thru 056). The
2 flag colors indicate, blue for backing fire, yellow for lateral spread and red for advancing
3 fire. He came to an area where he found it difficult to locate spread indicators due to
4 heavy foot traffic and firefighting efforts. This area was approximately 15 feet by 20 feet
5 (P-VB-054, 055). Chief BERGLAND located a burned tree trunk and observed it was
6 resting on a telephone line (P-VB-061, P-VB-132 thru 136). Directly above the phone
7 line were electrical conductors (P-VB-057). He determined the burned tree trunk came
8 from a tree stump approximately six feet away. It appeared the trunk was that of the
9 main tree and broke off the tree stump approximately 18 feet 6 inches from the ground
10 level. He observed the tree stump did not have any indications of burning at the point of
11 failure (P-VB-068 thru 072, P-VB-119 thru 121). Chief BERGLAND observed several
12 scrape marks and four burn marks on the branches (P-VB-073 thru 105, P-VB-122 thru
13 131). He determined the 15 foot by 20 foot, area to be his specific origin area (SOA).
14 He was unable to locate macro or micro indicators in the SOA due to firefighting efforts.
15 It is Chief BERGLAND's opinion the fire was caused by a tree falling into electrical
16 conductors owned by PG&E. Evidence in the GOA indicated an oak tree trunk broke
17 from an oak tree stump due to rot and in combination with wind. The upper branches of
18 the tree became in contact with the downhill or northern electrical conductor. The
19 branches came to rest on the electrical conductor causing burn marks on the upper tree
20 limbs. Burning tree material or sparks fell to the ground litter below and ignited the fire.
21 (See attachment 9)

22

23 At approximately 3:30 PM, Chief BERGLAND began to investigate the Norrbom 2 Fire.
24 He contacted an individual named Patrick LECOMPTE, who told him he was working as
25 a contractor for PG&E. LECOMPTE told Chief BERGLAND he and his crew were
26 repairing broken electrical conductor lines approximately 500 feet up the hill, as directed
27 by PG&E. LECOMPTE said it appeared a tree came down and broke two electrical
28 conductor lines in one span. Chief BERGLAND walked with LECOMPTE to the area
29 being repaired. Chief BERGLAND saw one line had been repaired and the crew was
30 working on repairing the second line. Chief BERGLAND requested the cut ends of both
31 electrical conductor lines. LECOMPTE and his crew did not keep the cuts from the first
LE80 (Rev. 7/2011)

1 line and Chief BERGLAND and LECOMPTE were not able to locate them on the
2 ground. They cut the ends from the remaining electrical conductor line and provided
3 them to Chief BERGLAND as items of interest. (See attachment 10)

4
5 On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 12:36 PM, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Joe
6 BALDWIN requested me to respond to the Norrbom Fire, located near the city of
7 Sonoma, to assist with the origin and cause investigation.

8
9 When I arrived at Norrbom Road, I had to pass through a law enforcement check point
10 to access the area. I met with Chief BERGLAND, on Norrbom Road, at approximately
11 5:05 PM. Chief BERGLAND told me, while attempting to locate the GOA of the
12 Norrbom 2 Fire he also located what appeared to be an earlier fire, approximately one
13 quarter acre in size, with evidence of suppression efforts (Norrpom 1 Fire). Chief
14 BERGLAND told me he believed there was only a local government response to the
15 Norrbom 1 Fire with no notification to, or response from CAL FIRE. Chief BERGLAND
16 told me he had also contacted an electrical contractor company working on electrical
17 conductor lines to the east. Chief BERGLAND and I walked the fire area looking at
18 macro and micro fire pattern indicators and discussed his initial observations of
19 Norrbom 1 and Norrbom 2. Visibility was poor due to the time of day and smoke
20 conditions, the decision was made to suspend the investigation until the next morning. I
21 secured the origin area until I was relieved by Chief BERGLAND on October 12, at 7:33
22 AM.

23
24 On October 12, Chief BERGLAND proceeded to the location where the PG&E
25 contractors were doing work the day prior. After observing fire spread indicators Chief
26 BERGLAND determined backing fire from the Norrbom 2 Fire moved through the area
27 and burned the base of the oak tree causing the tree to fall and sever the electrical
28 conductor lines. (See attachment 10)

29
30 At approximately 11:00 AM, CAL FIRE Fire Captain Mark HILLSKOTTER arrived and
31 assisted Chief BERGLAND (See Attachment 13). They found leaves and small
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1 branches of the fallen oak tree were noted to be in contact with burned ground litter but
2 did not appear to be burned or scorched. This confirmed the fire had burned through
3 the area, and cooled prior to the oak tree falling. Chief BERGLAND excluded the
4 downed tree and electrical conductors as the cause of the Norrbom 2 Fire and
5 discarded the two electrical conductor ends he had obtained. (See attachment 10)
6

7 On October 12, at approximately 4:09 PM, I returned to the scene. I met with Chief
8 BERGLAND, Captain HILLSKOTTER, Chief ZIMMERMAKER and CAL FIRE Assistant
9 Chief Dan WHITE to receive an update on the status of the investigation. It was
10 decided that we would order an arborist for expert evaluation of a tree, a Land
11 Surveying Team capable of using Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) survey
12 technology to assist with scene documentation and security to continue securing the
13 scene for the duration of the investigation. It was decided that Chief BERGLAND would
14 continue working on the origin and cause investigation of the Norrbom 1 Fire and I
15 would work on the origin and cause of the Norrbom 2 Fire. Chief ZIMMERMAKER
16 would facilitate follow up with the ECC to ascertain if there was in incident number for
17 the Norrbom Fire.
18

19 Captain HILLSKOTTER and I began the origin and cause investigation of the Norrbom
20 2 Fire. We walked the area noting macro and micro fire pattern indicators including but
21 not limited to; angle of char, sooting, staining, protection, ash deposits and stem fall.
22 Using prior discussions, observations and interpreting fire pattern indicators, we
23 identified a GOA of approximately forty feet by sixty feet. I took digital photographs of
24 the GOA (See Attachment 7, IMG_0002.JPG through IMG_0005.JPG). The location of
25 the GOA was also supported by the statement from Chief MULAS and later statements
26 from P. COTURRI and HERRERA.
27

28 I noted the north most portion of handline, at the dirt road, contained areas which were
29 not completely cleared to bare mineral soil with small areas containing burned
30 vegetation, as pointed out by Chief BERGLAND. The totality of fire pattern indicators
31 showed a combination of lateral and backing fire spread towards this area, from the

1 south.

2

3 At approximately 6:56 PM, a security guard from SVT Security arrived at scene. I
4 briefed him on his responsibilities and provided him my contact information. SVT
5 Security maintained 24 hour scene security through the duration of the investigation,
6 until released on October 18, at approximately 1:54 PM. I checked in with the security
7 guards daily. Due to lack of available light, Chief BERGLAND, Captain HILLSKOTTER
8 and I departed the scene for the night.

9

10 I returned to the scene on Friday, October 13, at approximately 7:52 AM, and met with
11 Chief BERGLAND and Captain HILLSKOTTER. Captain HILLSKOTTER and I walked
12 two laps, each in opposing direction, around the Norrbom 2 Fire GOA. Captain
13 HILLSKOTTER and I continued processing the GOA using colored pin flags to mark fire
14 pattern indicators as they were located; red flags represented advancing fire spread
15 indicators, yellow flags represented lateral fire spread indicators, and blue flags
16 represented backing fire spread indicators. We identified macro and micro fire pattern
17 indicators including but not limited to; angle of char, sooting, staining, protection, ash
18 deposits and stem fall. We continued in a serpentine pattern, working around the
19 fences in the area, working back through advancing indicators. We narrowed the GOA
20 down to a SOA of approximately four feet by eight feet. The SOA contained a portion of
21 the containment line, Chief MULAS told Chief BERGLAND, had been constructed
22 during the Norrbom 1 Fire. Two fence lines ran through the SOA. The lower fencing
23 was partially cut and folded onto the ground in the SOA and needed to be removed for
24 processing. The upper fence was completely cut and the remaining fencing was
25 preventing dirt and debris from falling into the SOA, it was left in place until the majority
26 of the SOA was processed, then removed to finish processing.

27

28 With assistance from Captain HILLSKOTTER, I conducted a grid search of the Norrbom
29 2 Fire SOA working from advancing indicators. A total of five grid lanes were searched,
30 each lane was approximately one foot deep by eight feet wide. I visually searched each
31 grid lane, used a hair pick to methodically remove ash and debris and processed each

1 lane with a magnet. While processing the grid lanes, two areas were noted on the hand
2 line, one area on the left side of the lanes and one area on the right side. Both of these
3 areas contained burned and unburned vegetation consisting of dead dry grass and
4 leaves. Micro fire spread indicators, including but not limited to staining and protection,
5 were noted in both areas showing the fire advancing from the October 8th side of the
6 handline. After processing the fourth grid lane a fifth and final grid lane was searched.
7 No backing indicators were found and no ignition sources were identified except the
8 Norrbom 1 Fire.

9
10 I saw electrical conductor lines strung above the Norrbom 2 SOA. I saw no vegetation
11 or other objects which could have contacted the lines. The electrical conductor lines
12 appeared taught with no obvious signs of damage.

13
14 Based on my training and experience, the facts and evidence gathered and on the
15 totality of the fire spread indicators including the micro indicators found in the SOA,
16 which showed the fire advanced from within the Norrbom 1 Fire control line toward the
17 outside of the control line, and having found no additional ignition source, it is my
18 opinion the Norrbom 2 Fire was caused by the Norrbom 1 Fire escaping through hand
19 line.

20
21 On Friday, October 13th, at approximately 8:30 AM, Chief BERGLAND met with Mark
22 PORTER, an arborist from Mark's Tree Service and Consulting to evaluate the tree in
23 the Norrbom 1 Fire SOA. (See attachment 9)

24 On Friday October 13th, at approximately 11:45 AM, Chief BERGLAND went to 16600
25 Gehricke Road to try to locate a female who LECOMPTE said he had spoken to. Chief
26 BERGLAND spoke to a man who identified himself as Jeff HARMON. Harmon was not
27 aware of the woman described by LECOMPTE. Chief BERGLAND identified himself to
28 J. HARMON as a fire investigator for CAL FIRE. J. HARMON immediately told Chief
29 BERGLAND he knew where the fire started and pointed to a drainage below. Due to
30 smoke he was unable to see into the drainage. Chief BERGLAND asked J. HARMON
31 to take him to the location. J. HARMON rode with Chief BERGLAND and directed him

1 to the location which was where I was currently working, at the GOA of Norrbom 2.
2 (See attachment 10)

3

4 I interviewed J. HARMON, who told me the following in summary;

5

6 On Monday morning, October 9, 2017, J. HARMON was outside of his residence
7 talking with a masonry contractor. J. HARMON saw a "small, white plume of
8 smoke" which he believed to be a grass fire starting. J. HARMON told me, when
9 he saw the smoke he believed it was located at or near the location where we
10 were speaking. J. HARMON called 911 to report the fire; once at 7:20 AM which
11 did not go through and then at 9:20 AM which was successful. J. HARMON
12 called Phillip COTURRI, a neighbor and vineyard manager in the area to alert
13 him of the fire. J HARMON told me, his wife Susanne HARMON also saw the
14 smoke.

15

16 I provided J. HARMON with my business card and wrote my cellular telephone number
17 on it. J HARMON told me he would give my contact information to his wife so she
18 would know it was me when I called.

19

20 At approximately 3:25 PM, I departed the scene.

21

22 On Saturday, October 14, at approximately 11:17 AM, I returned to the scene and met
23 with CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Matt GILBERT, CAL FIRE Senior Land Surveyor James
24 DEGRAFF and CAL FIRE Transportation Survey Party Chief Jeff GAWRONSKI.
25 DEGRAFF and GAWRONSKI were there to survey the scene, they told me they would
26 need until approximately 12:00 PM the next day to complete their work.

27

28 At approximately 1:17 PM, I departed the scene.

29

30 On Sunday, October 15, at approximately 11:13 AM, I returned to the scene and met
31 with CAL FIRE Fire Captain Sean JERRY and Chief GILBERT. Captain JERRY was
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1 present to assist with the chainsaw work necessary to collect portions of the downed
2 tree as evidence. Surveyors DEGRAFF and GAWRONSKI had finished surveying the
3 scene. I identified, to Captain JERRY, the portions of the downed tree I intended to
4 collect and he told me understood. Captain JERRY made the cuts as described and I
5 tagged and photographed the evidence items then secured them in my vehicle (E1, E1-
6 A, E1-B, E1-C, E1-D, E1-E). I saw scrape marks, burn marks, and areas which were
7 later described to me by electrical engineer Jim NOLT as arc tracking, evident on
8 portions of the tree (See photos IMG_0027.JPG through IMG_0033.JPG). At 1:17 PM, I
9 departed the scene enroute to the Middletown evidence storage. I secured all evidence
10 items in the Middletown evidence storage at 3:37 PM.

11
12 On Monday, October 16, I contacted P. COTURRI via telephone to conduct an interview
13 (See attachment 13). P. COTURRI told me he went to the location of the fire, on a four-
14 wheeler, on Monday morning, October 9 to see if he could extinguish it. P. COTURRI
15 said he could lead me to the location where he initially saw it. I met P. COTURRI at his
16 office located at 569 1st Street West, Sonoma at 2:15 PM. I followed P. COTURRI until
17 he accessed the property and stopped, at 2:37 PM, in the area where we had been
18 previously investigating. P. COTURRI told me the following in summary;

19
20 On Sunday night, October 8, 2017, a neighbor, Robert KAMEN, called to alert
21 him of the Norrbom 1 Fire. P. COTURRI looked toward the end of Norrbom
22 Road, saw the glow of a fire and also saw the emergency lights from fire engines.
23 P. COTURRI then went back to sleep. On the morning of Monday, October 9, P.
24 COTURRI received a text from HARMON at 7:52 AM, "can I get through
25 Kaymen's with a water tender to the fire location". P. COTURRI replied by text,
26 "yes it's at Pete's place". P. COTURRI told me, shortly after receiving the text,
27 he and his son Max COUTURRI traveled to this location of the Norrbom 2 Fire on
28 four-wheelers with a small water tank on a trailer. P. COTURRI told me the wind
29 was out of the north, pushing the fire towards the south east up the hill behind
30 the metal carport building. P. COTURRI told me the grass field below had
31 already burned down to the drainage but had not crossed it towards the vineyard.

1 They attempted to put water on the fire but realized they could not extinguish the
2 fire and they left.

3
4 I asked P. COTURRI if he was given an aerial image of the area, could he draw where
5 he described seeing the Norrbom 2 Fire. P. COTURRI told me he could. I provided P.
6 COTURRI with an aerial image, from Google Earth, showing the area where we were
7 currently located. I asked him if he recognized the area in the image and he told me he
8 did. P. COTURRI drew on the image to indicate the fire as he described it. He marked
9 an area as "not burning" and told me the area was unburned when he was present. I
10 asked P. COTURRI about the small field just to the north of our location which was
11 present on the image. He described the area as "prior burn", he did not see active
12 flames but saw smoke, he identified the area with the number 1 in a circle. P.
13 COTURRI drew on the image, the area where he described the fire as "actively
14 burning". I asked P. COTURRI to sign and date the image and he did (See attachment
15 13). P. COTURRI and I departed the scene at 3:36 PM.

16
17 P. COTURRI's description of the fire burning towards the south east up the hill behind
18 the metal carport building was supported by a V fire pattern indicator located in that
19 area (See aerial images IMG_0011.JPG, IMG_0013.JPG, IMG_0015.JPG and
20 IMG_0022.JPG)

21
22 On Tuesday, October 17, I was contacted by Chief ZIMMERMAKER. Chief
23 ZIMMERMAKER told me to contact CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Jake DELLAMONICA
24 regarding an individual he had contact with while assigned to the Norrbom Fire.
25 At 2:01 PM, I spoke to Chief DELLAMONICA via telephone and he told me the following
26 in summary;

27
28 While assigned to the Norrbom fire he spoke to a man, on at least two occasions,
29 who identified himself as Jeff HARMON. J. HARMON told him he thought the
30 Norrbom 2 Fire started at a water pump. Chief DELLAMONICA took J.

31 HARMON's contact information to pass on to investigators. During a later

1 interaction at the Norrbom Fire, J. HARMON told Chief DELLAMONICA he had
2 not been contacted by investigators. J. HARMON then told Chief
3 DELLAMONICA he had a business card from a CAL FIRE investigator but had
4 lost it. Chief DELLAMONICA asked him, if he had not spoken to a CAL FIRE
5 investigator how did he have possession of the business card. J. HARMON
6 replied he had spoken with an investigator who was supposed to call him back,
7 but had not, and he couldn't contact him due to losing the card. I told Chief
8 DELLAMONICA, both I and Chief BERGLAND had previously spoken with
9 HARMON and that he had not said anything about any pump. Chief
10 DELLAMONICA told me he thought it was odd that J. HARMON initially told him
11 he had not spoken to any investigators, but then said he had after being
12 questioned about the business card.

13

14 At 2:16 PM, I contacted Suzanne HARMON via telephone (See attachment 13). S.
15 HARMON told me the following in summary;

16

17 On Monday, October 9, 2017 at 7:15 AM, she was milking goats when she
18 looked out the window and saw smoke, down the canyon to the south west
19 (Norrbon 2 Fire). At 7:16 AM she texted her husband, "Norrbon fire". S.
20 HARMON described the smoke as a small white column. I could hear S.
21 HARMON talking to what sounded like a male voice in the background and I
22 asked her if it was her husband J. HARMON, she stated it was. I asked if I could
23 speak to him further and she said yes.

24 At 2:22 PM, a male got on the phone and identified himself to me as J. HARMON. I told
25 J. HARMON I wanted to touch base with him to confirm the information he had already
26 provided and to ask if he had thought of anything additional. J. HARMON told me the
27 following in summary;

28

29 I asked J. HARMON if he still believed the Norrbom 2 Fire started at the location
30 where he had directed Chief BERGLAND to and then spoken to me, J. HARMON
31 replied, yes it started there and burned up the canyon. J. HARMON told me he

1 had run into a CAL FIRE guy from Santa Cruz the night before. J. HARMON told
2 me he couldn't remember who was investigating the fire and thought he lost my
3 business card so he gave the CAL FIRE guy from Santa Cruz his information. J.
4 HARMON asked me if the guy from Santa Cruz had contacted me. I told J.
5 HARMON no, and asked him if the CAL FIRE guy from Santa Cruz had any
6 information on how the fire started. J. HARMON replied, no he wouldn't know
7 anything about how it started, he got to the fire days later. I asked J. HARMON if
8 he still believed the Norrbom 2 Fire started at the location where we spoke and
9 then burned towards his property. J. HARMON replied, yes it started there and
10 the fire made it to our lake house on the property by Wednesday, it burned our
11 foot bridge and a wood chipper. I asked J. HARMON if he could think of anything
12 else pertinent to how or where the fire started and he replied, no. I offered J.
13 HARMON my cellular telephone number to call me if he thought of anything
14 further. J. HARMON replied, he had my business card and had my cellular
15 telephone number from when we talked about me contacting his wife, so that she
16 would know it was me calling. I thanked J. HARMON and requested he call me if
17 had any further information regarding the fire.

18
19 During the conversation with J. HARMON, the information he provided was in-line with
20 the information he provided during our initial conversation and at no time did he mention
21 a water pump. I requested CAL FIRE Fire Captain Gary UBOLDI conduct a follow up
22 interview with J. HARMON based on his statements to Chief DELLAMONICA.

23
24 On Wednesday, October 18, at 10:04 AM, I met Captain UBOLDI and PG&E
25 employees, including Maria DELUCA, at the bottom of Norrbom Road. I advised the
26 PG&E foreman I needed to collect two sections of conductor line as evidence and
27 required their assistance in removing the lines. At 10:59 AM, we arrived at the scene. I
28 spoke with the security guard who was at the gate to the property, she was with two
29 individuals who identified themselves as engineers with the California Public Utility
30 Commission (CPUC), Wilson TSAI and Raymond CHO. After speaking with Chief
31 ZIMMERMAKER, TSAI and CHO were allowed to proceed to the scene to oversee

1 PG&E operations.

2

3 I identified the two conductor lines to the PG&E foreman. The foreman advised me they
4 could not get their bucket truck close enough to the lines to take just the sections I was
5 requesting and would have to climb the poles and remove the entire span. The PG&E
6 foreman told me they would identify the lines with colored tape prior to removal; the
7 north line (downhill) would be marked with white tape at each end, one wrap at the east
8 end and two wraps at the west end and the south line (uphill) would be marked with red
9 tape at each end, one wrap at the east end and two wraps at the west end. They would
10 also mark, with pen, the tape on top of the lines to show their orientation prior to being
11 removed.

12

13 A PG&E employee approached me and requested to show me something he had noted.
14 I followed him west of the Norrbom 1 Fire GOA where he pointed out a section of
15 communication/media lines. The wire lashing around the lines appeared broken. He
16 told me he believed the lashing could have contacted the conductor lines above it and
17 started the fire. Using a nearby ladder, I inspected the lashing and surrounding
18 communication/media lines and saw what appeared to be a mechanical break in the
19 lashing. I saw no indication of contact with energized conductor lines, such as arching,
20 charring or beading.

21

22 PG&E personnel marked the lines, removed them from the span and placed them on
23 the ground. Captain UBOLDI and I coiled the conductor lines and secured them with
24 zip ties. I tagged them as evidence items #2 and #3 and secured them in my vehicle.

25

26 At 12:27 PM, a white male adult approached from the driveway, followed by the security
27 guard. He identified himself to me as Peter NORRBOM, I later confirmed with his
28 driver's license. NORRBOM told me the following in summary (See attachment 13);

29

30 NORRBOM is the owner of [REDACTED] Road. He was alerted of the fire
31 early Monday morning by his employee Juan HERRERA. He also received a call

1 from his friend Mike PERRY who had seen the fires on the news. NORRBOM
2 went outside onto his deck, saw all of the smoke in the area and evacuated to
3 the Best Western hotel in Sonoma. I asked NORRBOM about viewing footage
4 from security cameras I had seen on the property and NORRBOM told me the
5 cameras had not worked in over a year. He did not know how the fires started.
6

7 At 1:24 PM, NORRBOM returned with his employee Juan Pablo Raya HERRERA.
8 HERRERA told me the following in summary (See attachment 13);
9

10 HERRERA works for NORRBOM. Monday morning he received a telephone call
11 from his girlfriend alerting him of the fires in the area. At approximately 5:30 AM,
12 he went to NORRBOM's property to check on it. When he arrived, he saw fire
13 hoses on the ground and a small area which appeared burned (Norrpom 1 Fire).
14 HERRERA saw flames on a tree stump and attempted to extinguish them with
15 buckets of water. HERRERA saw wood and debris, between the parallel fences,
16 smoking but did not see flames. He then went to NORRBOM's house alerted
17 him of the fire and went home. Between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM he returned to
18 NORRBOM's property. When he arrived, he saw the grass area which was
19 previously unburned, was burned and the fire had burned uphill around and
20 behind the metal carport (Norrpom 2 Fire).
21

22 I provided HERRERA with an aerial image, from Google Earth, showing the area where
23 we were currently located. I asked HERRERA if he was familiar with the location shown
24 in the image and he said yes, it was the location we were at. I asked HERRERA to
25 draw on the image where he saw the fire. HERRERA drew on the image where he saw
26 the fire at approximately 5:30 AM (Norrpom 1 Fire) and where he saw it when he
27 returned between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM (Norrpom 2 Fire). I asked HERRERA to sign
28 and date the image and he did (See attachment 13).
29

30 On Wednesday, October 18, at approximately 1:54 PM, I released the security guard
31 and released the property back to the property owner. I departed the scene to secure
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1 the evidence items in the Santa Rosa evidence storage. At 3:23 PM, I transferred
2 evidence items #2 and #3 into CAL FIRE Santa Rosa evidence storage.

3
4 On October 18, Captain UBOLDI met with J. HARMON and S. HARMON at their
5 residence. They told him the following in summary (See attachment 13);

6
7 J. HARMON saw the fire originate from the bottom of the canyon, southwest of
8 their residence (Norrbon 2 Fire). J. HARMON and S. HARMON watched the fire
9 spread southward, up the canyon and mid slope across the hillside. J. HARMON
10 had driven with another CAL FIRE Investigator to a small pond located at the
11 base of the canyon and told the Investigator he thought the fire started from a
12 water pump located there. Captain UBOLDI asked J. HARMON if he physically
13 saw the fire where it started. J. HARMON told him he did not see the fire until it
14 reached a fallow vineyard field approximately three hundred yards above the
15 ridgeline, southwest of his residence. Captain UBOLDI asked J. HARMON how
16 he knew the fire started at the pond from the water pump. J. HARMON told him
17 it was the only plausible explanation for him. S. HARMON stated J. HARMON
18 was only assuming and they did not see the fire start. J. HARMON agreed his
19 theory was only an assumption and not based on facts.

20
21 On Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at approximately 10:50 AM, I took a helicopter flight to
22 take aerial digital photographs of the Norrbom Fire.

23
24 On Friday, November 3, 2017, at 1:45 PM, I interviewed KAMEN via his cellular
25 telephone number. KAMEN told me the following in summary (See attachment 13);

26
27 On Sunday, October 8, 2017, he was returning from dinner at around 10:30 PM.
28 While driving on Norrbom Road he smelled smoke and saw what he believed to
29 be fire, in the area of Pete NORRBOM's property (Norrbon 1 Fire). When he got
30 home he went onto his porch and was able to see the fire. KAMEN called 911 to
31 report the fire, the fire department showed up and put the fire out. The next

1 morning KAMEN went onto his porch and "saw the fire had flared up" (Norrbon 2
2 Fire). KAMEN said the fire was in the same area as the night prior and described
3 it as low and not in the trees, he could not tell the size of the fire. I asked
4 KAMEN if he knew who owned and/or lived at [REDACTED] Road. KAMEN
5 told me Nat and Laura SIMONS own the property but were not home at the time
6 of the fire.

7
8 I made multiple unsuccessful attempts to make contact with a possible reporting party
9 found in the REDCOM Background Event Chronology, listed as Laura
10 BAXTERSIMONS, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. On October 29, I traveled to
11 the address to attempt to make contact. There were no residents present, only
12 employees who were not comfortable providing me with additional contact information.
13 I left my contact information with a request to contact me. On December 6, I was
14 contacted by Kirsten WEISSER. WEISSER told me she received my contact
15 information which I left at [REDACTED] Road. WEISSER worked for Nathaniel and
16 Laura SIMON and managed their office in San Francisco. WEISSER told me both N.
17 SIMON and L. SIMON were currently out of the country and were out of town at the time
18 of the fire. I told her I was trying to conduct follow up on reporting parties to the fire.
19 WEISSER told me she would contact employees who worked at the property to see
20 who if anyone was present and she would have them contact me.

21
22 On Thursday, December 7, 2017, at 4:08 PM, I interviewed Laurence DICKINSON via
23 telephone. DICKINSON told me the following in summary (See attachment 13);

24 DICKINSON was requested to contact me by WEISSER. DICKINSON works for
25 Nat and Laura SIMONS as the General Manager of their properties located at
26 [REDACTED] Road in Sonoma. On Monday, October 9, 2017, at
27 5:09 AM, he received a telephone call alerting him of the fire from Joel
28 SANTOYA, the On-site Manager. DICKINSON went to the [REDACTED] property,
29 arriving between 9:30 and 10:00 AM. DICKINSON called 911 from his cellular
30 telephone while enroute. He did not see fire near the house. He then proceeded
31 to the [REDACTED] address around 11:39 AM. There was fire at the house (Norrbon 2

1 Fire) and he and other employees attempted to extinguish the fire with water
2 from hoses and turned on the irrigation system. DICKINSON did not see anyone
3 else in the area. DICKINSON did not see where the fire started but had been
4 told it started on Pete NORRBOM's property. He stated the electricity was on to
5 both properties until sometime Monday afternoon. I asked DICKINSON if he took
6 any photographs of the fire. DICKINSON told me he had taken some and he
7 emailed them to me.

8
9 On Thursday, December 7, 2017, I received four emails from DICKINSON which
10 included photographs. (See attachment 15).

11
12 I reviewed the report produced by PORTER titled "Evaluation of California Black Oak
13 Tree Failure" regarding the subject tree in the Norrbom 1 Fire (See attachment 14). The
14 report included the following;

15
16 [PORTER] was asked to assist Cal Fire Battalion Chief Vince Bergland to
17 investigate the cause of a California black oak tree failure.

18
19 [PORTER] observed a 17-inch diameter oak tree with a branch fracture. There is
20 wood decay at the point of failure. The branch failure is approximately 26-foot-
21 long with a column of decay approximately 11 inches in diameter. A sample was
22 sent to a wood decay lab. The lab warned the fire and heat may complicate
23 identification of decay using DNA analysis. The lab reports fungi are present.
24 The decay located at the fracture point (point of failure) indicate to [PORTER]
25 pre-existing defects were present on this oak tree prior to the incident.

26
27 During the course of the investigation I requested, through Chief ZIMMERAKER,
28 information from PG&E. The basis of the request was for any information PG&E had
29 regarding any electrical faults or issues with the electrical conductor lines associated
30 with the Norrbom 1 Fire. I was provided with multiple files containing a large number of
31 documents. I reviewed the documents associated with the Norrbom Fire, many of

1 which contained data which I was unable to discern. (See Chief ZIMMERMAKER LE-
2 71 and USB storage drive containing documentation)

3

4 I noted documents titled Pacific Gas & Electric Vegetation Management, which
5 appeared to be reports identifying vegetation inspections, listing the address of 16250
6 Norrbom Road, Sonoma (See attachment 16). These reports were dated 01/15/2014,
7 02/17/2015 and 02/13/2016. These documents had a latitude and longitude listed of:
8 38.329067, -122.443092.

9

10 I noted documents titled Pacific Gas & Electric Vegetation Management Work Request,
11 listing the address of 16250 Norrbom Road, Sonoma (See attachment 16). These
12 reports listed dates of inspection which corresponded with the dates from the above
13 listed reports. These documents had a latitude and longitude listed of: 38.329067,
14 -122.443092.

15

16 These reports appeared to identify trees in the area, of the listed latitude and longitude,
17 which had been inspected and were identified for work to be performed on them. Using
18 Google Earth, I identified the latitude and longitude in the above-mentioned PG&E
19 documents and the SOA of the Norrbom 1 Fire provided by Chief BERGLAND (See
20 attachment 16). The locations were in close proximity.

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1 **Opinions and Conclusions**

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3 Chief BERGLAND conducted the origin and cause investigation of the Norrbom 1 Fire.

4 It was Chief BERGLAND's opinion the fire was caused by a tree, due to rot and in

5 combination with wind, falling into electrical conductor lines owned by PG&E. Burning

6 tree material or sparks fell to the ground litter below and ignited the fire (See attachment

7 9). The report from PORTER stated; The decay located at the fracture point (point of

8 failure) indicate to [PORTER] pre-existing defects were present on this oak tree prior to

9 the incident (See attachment 14). Documents provided by PG&E appear to identify a

10 location in close proximity to the Norrbom 1 SOA, where inspections were performed

11 and identified work to be performed in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (See attachment 16).

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14 Based on my training, experience and the facts and evidence gathered during my origin

15 and cause investigation of the Norrbom 2 Fire, it is my opinion, the Norrbom 1 Fire

16 escaped through handline and continued to burn as the Norrbom Fire until it combined

17 with, and became, the Nuns Fire.

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22 *I reserve the right to amend or augment this opinion if new pertinent information is

23 provided to me or is discovered by me at a later date.

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Signature  Date 5/28/18

28 W. Charlie Laird, Badge #2369

29 Fire Captain, CAL FIRE

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10 - ATTACHMENTS:

1. CAL FIRE Interagency Report of Incident and Dispatch Summary
2. REDCOM Background Event Chronology
3. Weather station information
4. Norrbom Fire Grid Maps and Parcel Information
5. LIDAR
6. Norrbom 2 Sketch
7. Digital Photographs
8. Aerial Digital Photographs
9. Chief BERGLAND Norrbom 1 Origin and Cause Investigation Report
10. Chief BERGLAND Supplemental Reports
11. Chief BERGLAND Digital Photographs
12. Chief BERGLAND Norrbom 1 Sketch
13. Supplemental Investigation Reports
14. Arborist Report
15. DICKINSON Emails
16. PG&E Vegetation Management Documents and Google Earth Image