

1 (12) pole line hardware that does not carry current, or

2 (13) lightning/surge protection devices with Department-approved spark prevention
3 units.

4 ~~(c) On the following areas if fire will not propagate thereon;~~

5 ~~(1) fields planted to row crops;~~

6 ~~(2) plowed or cultivated fields;~~

7 ~~(3) producing vineyards that are plowed or cultivated;~~

8 ~~(4) fields in nonflammable summer fallow;~~

9 ~~(5) irrigated pasture land;~~

10 ~~(6) orchards of fruit, nut or citrus trees that are plowed or cultivated;~~

11 ~~(7) Christmas tree farms that are plowed or cultivated; and~~

12 ~~(8) swamp, marsh or bog land; or~~

13 ~~(d) Where vegetation is maintained less than 30.48 cm (12 inches) in height, is fire~~
14 ~~resistant, and is planted and maintained for the specific purpose of preventing soil~~
15 ~~erosion and fire ignition.~~

16 Note: Authority cited: Section 4292, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 4292,
17 Public Resources Code, Section 1910.399, Federal Occupational Safety and Health
18 Standards.

19
20 § 1256. Minimum Clearance Provisions -PRC 4293.

21 Minimum clearance required by PRC 4293 shall be maintained with the specified
22 distances measured at a right angle to the conductor axis at any location outward
23 throughout an arc of 360 degrees. (See Figure 3 § 1258this Article.)

24 Minimum clearance shall include:
25

1 (1) any position through which the eConductor may move, considering, among other
2 things, the size and material of the eConductor and its span length;

3 (2) any position through which the vegetation may sway, considering, among other
4 things, the climatic conditions, including such things as foreseeable wind velocities and
5 temperature, and location, height and species of the vegetation.

6 Note: Authority cited: Section 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4293
7 and 4296, Public Resources Code.

8
9 § 1257. Exempt Minimum Clearance Provisions - PRC 4293.

10 (a) The minimum clearance provisions of PRC 4293 applicable in State Responsibility
11 Areas are exempted where Conductors are:

12 ~~(1) Where conductors are:~~

13 ~~(A) insulated tree wire, maintained with the high density, abrasion resistant outer
14 covering intact, or~~

15 ~~(B) insulated self-supporting aerial cable, maintained with the insulation intact, or~~

16 ~~(C1) supported by sound and living tree trunks from which all dead or decadent
17 branches have been removed.~~

18 (i) Where Conductor spans are newly constructed or re-constructed after July 1,
19 2020 in the California Public Utility Commission High Fire Threat District Tiers 2
20 and 3, they shall not be attached to or supported by tree trunks.

21 (ii) All Conductors shall be removed and fastened to free-standing poles by July
22 1, 2025, or otherwise in accordance with a timeline approved by the Director.

23 Reports on the implementation of this section shall be submitted with the report
24 required in 14 CCR 1257(c).

25 (2) On areas described in 14 CCR 1255(ea), or

1 (3) For mature trees (“Exempt Trees”) whose trunks and major limbs are located more
2 than six (6) inches, but less than the distance required for clearance by PRC 4293, from
3 primary distribution equipment (Conductor and energy carrying hardware, generally less
4 than 35 kilovolts).

5 (bA) Exempt Trees must meet all of the following criteria, as confirmed by a Certified
6 Arborist or a Registered Professional Forester:

7 (1)- The tree or limb must be six (6) inches or more from the line at all times.

8 (2)- The size of the tree or limb at the Conductor level must be at least six (6) inches in
9 diameter.

10 (3)- The tree must not have “scaffold branches,” below eight and one-half feet from the
11 ground (so the tree can not be easily climbed).

12 (cB) All Utility Companies with primary distribution Conductors in State Responsibility
13 Areas (SRA) of California shall:

14 (1)- Inspect Exempt Trees annually to verify they continue to meet the criteria in 14 CCR
15 1257(a)(3).

16 (2)- Maintain a database of information about Exempt Trees that includes 1) location,
17 using the format of latitude/longitude in decimal degrees (DDD.DDDD Datum WGS84);

18 2) species; and 3) last date of inspection. If any Utility does not currently maintain such
19 a database it must establish one and provide its initial report to CAL FIRE by July 1,
20 2013. Utilities may request, and the Director may approve, an extension of time in which
21 to achieve compliance with this reporting requirement.

22 (3)- Report the information required pursuant to 14 CCR 1257(c)(~~a~~)(~~B~~)(2) above, in an
23 electronically searchable format, annually to CAL FIRE by July 1 of each year for the
24 previous calendar year.

1 (4)- When constructing, installing, replacing, or maintaining primary distribution
2 equipment, prevent the creation of new Exempt Trees, to the extent feasible.

3 (d) Where there are site specific indications that a Conductor has or will come into
4 contact with an Exempt Tree, or portion thereof as described above, the condition will
5 be corrected either by altering the tree or by applying an engineering solution, such as a
6 non-conductive cross arm. The actions taken will be documented in that utility's Exempt
7 Tree database.

8 (e) When subordinate elements, such as tree anchors, are fastened to living, sound
9 trees, the requirements of PRC 4292 and 4293 shall apply the same as to a pole or
10 tower line.

11 (f) These exemptions do not apply to trees subject to injury, disease, death, or insect
12 or fungus attacks. ~~“Hazard Trees” as identified and explained on pages 1-20 through 1-~~
13 ~~24 in the Department's “Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide” dated November 2008~~
14 ~~and posted on the Department's website at:~~

15 ~~<http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fppguidepdf126.pdf>.~~

16 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4111 and 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference:
17 Sections 4293 and 4296, Public Resources Code.

18
19 ~~§ 1258. Tree Lines. Figures~~

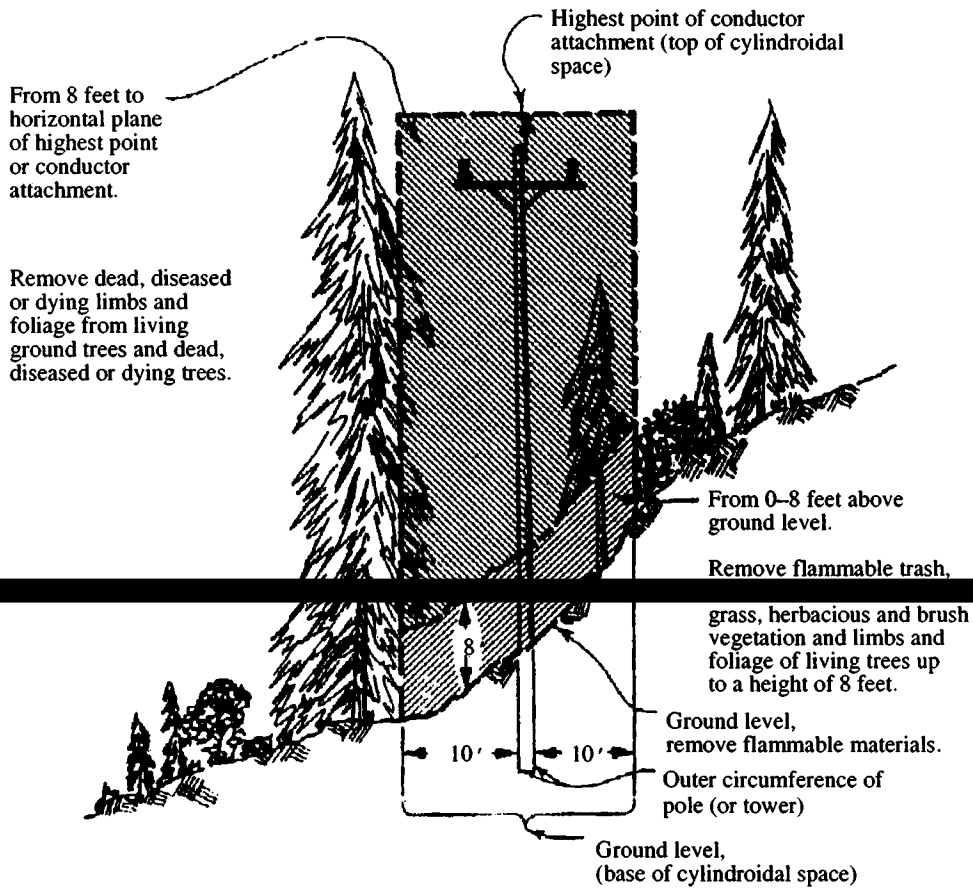
20 ~~When electric conductors and subordinate elements are fastened to living, sound trees,~~
21 ~~commonly referred to as tree lines, the requirements of PRC 4292 and 4293 shall apply~~
22 ~~the same as to a pole or tower line.~~

23 ~~Figure 1-Image 1 within § 1258. Tree Lines.~~

24 ~~*****No change to this image*****~~

Figure 2-Image 2 within § 1258. Tree Lines.

Figure 2



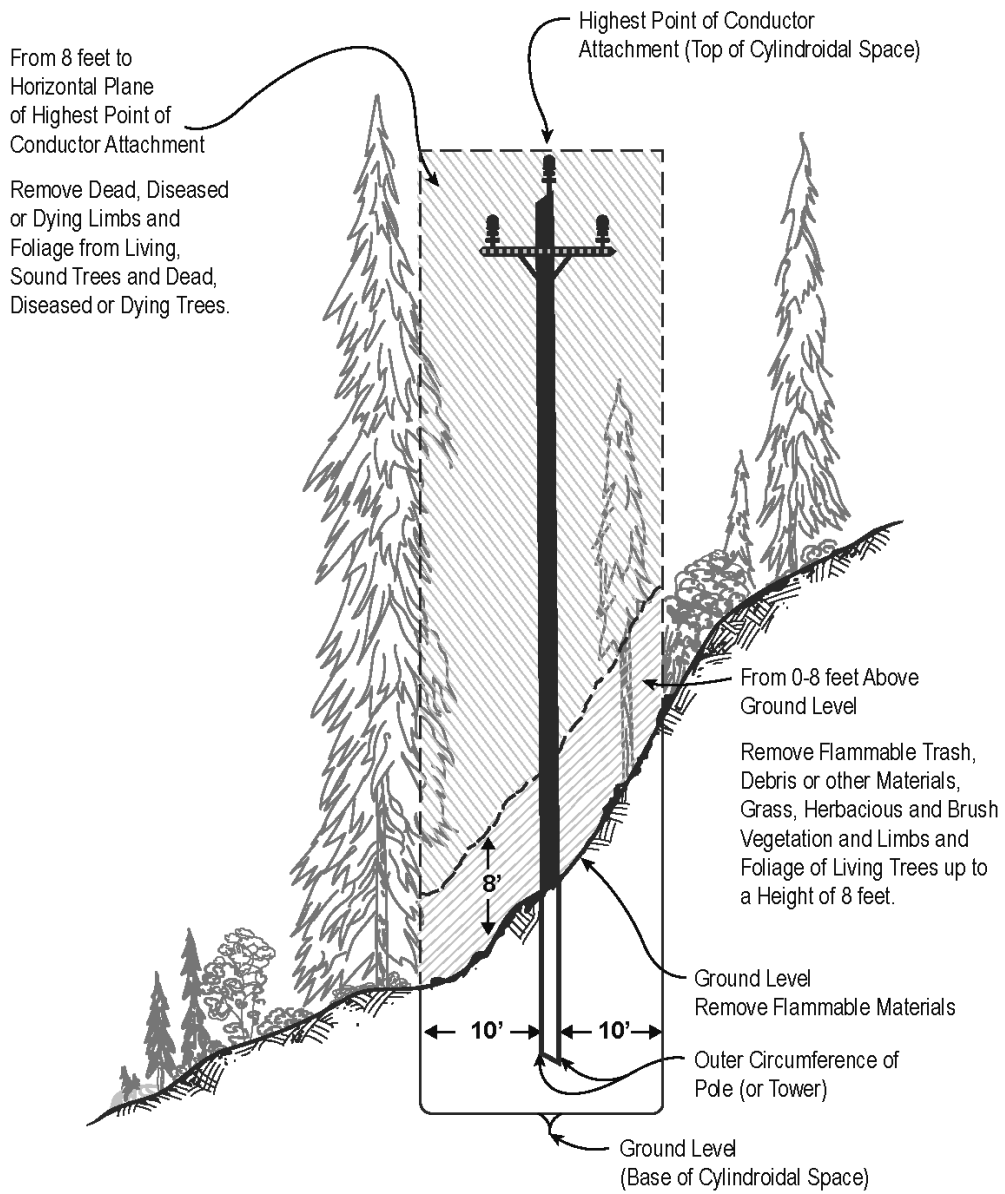
ELEVATION VIEW

PRC 4292
14 CAC 1254

**FIRE BREAK CLEARANCE
REQUIREMENTS
AROUND POLES AND TOWERS**

APRIL 1980

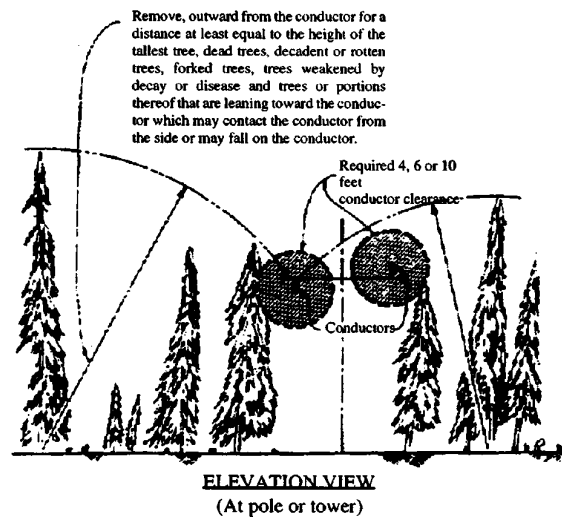
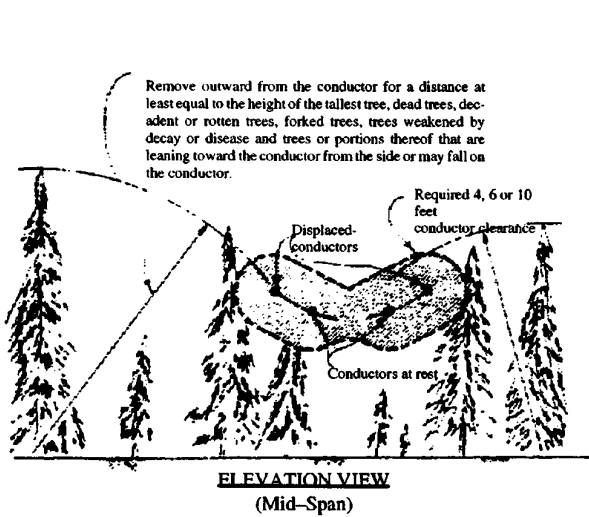
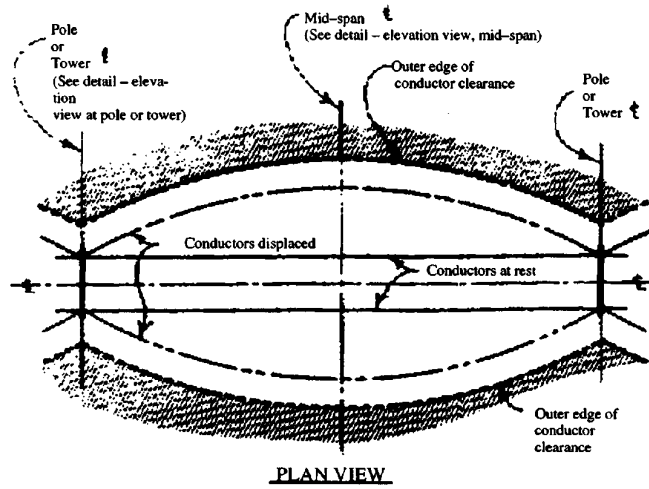
PRC 4292
 14 CCR 1254
 Fire Break Clearance Requirements
 Around Poles and Towers



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Figure 3 Image 3 within § 1258. Tree Lines.

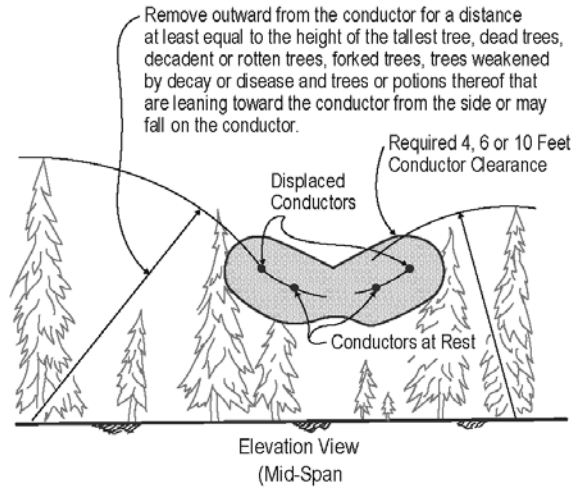
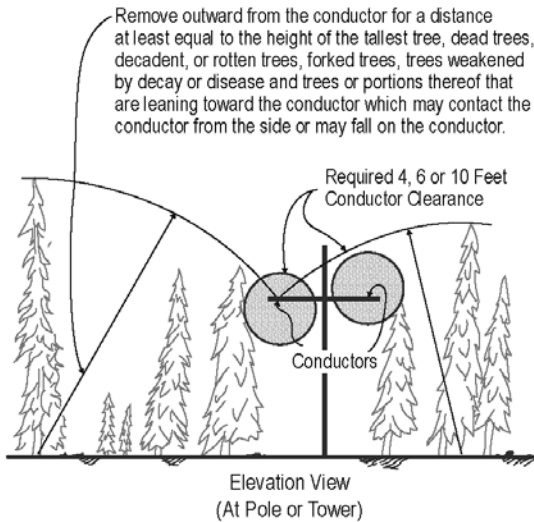
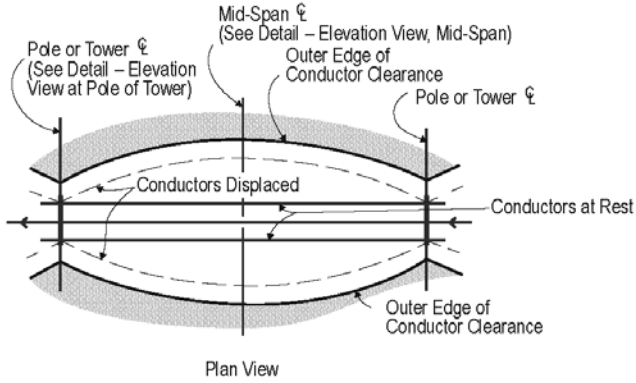
Figure 3



PRC
14 CAC 1256
CONDUCTOR CLEARANCE

April 1980

PRC 4293
14 CCR 1256
Conductor Clearance



Note: Authority cited: Sections 4292 and 4293, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4292, 4293, and 4296, Public Resources Code.

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