

CAL FIRE



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
SAN BERNARDINO UNIT
3800 North Sierra Way
San Bernardino, CA 92405
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
1320 N. Eastern Ave Los
Angeles, CA 90063**

INVESTIGATION REPORT

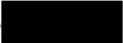
CASE NUMBER:	25CALAC009087
CASE NAME:	EATON
DATE:	January 7, 2025
INCIDENT TYPE:	Wildland Fire

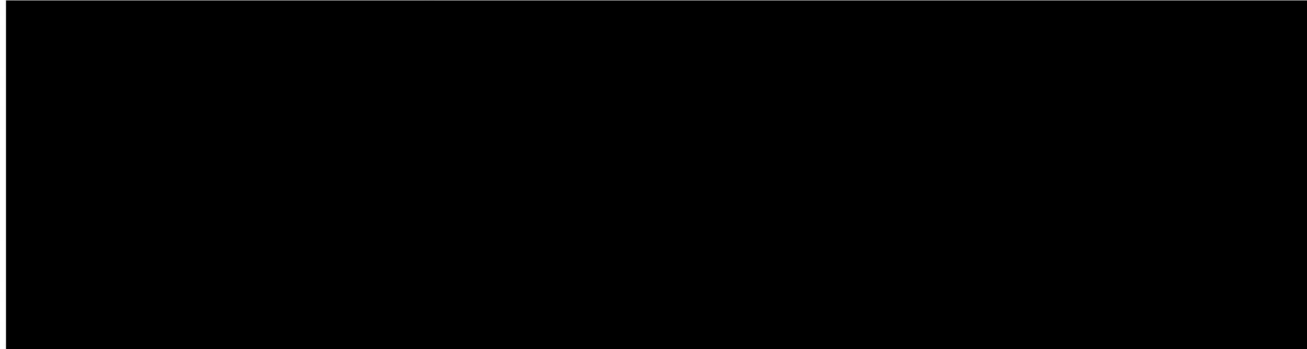
INCIDENT INVESTIGATORS:

Charles ELDER, ABI - CAL FIRE
Matthew GILBERT, Battalion Chief - CAL FIRE
Joe GREEN, Battalion Chief - CAL FIRE
Brian HAWKINS, Assistant Chief - CAL FIRE
Wayne HOWERTON, Battalion Chief - CAL FIRE
Matt KIRKHART, Battalion Chief - CAL FIRE

Lead Investigator Rick YARTZ, Fire Captain-LACoFD

Bennet MILLOY, Fire Captain Specialist - CAL FIRE
Raul RAMIREZ, Fire Captain / Investigator-LACoFD
Tim ROGERS, Deputy Chief - CAL FIRE
Nicholas SCHROEDER, ABI - CAL FIRE
Ryan WALLACE, Battalion Chief - CAL FIRE

1 **1 - VIOLATIONS:**2 PENAL CODE § 

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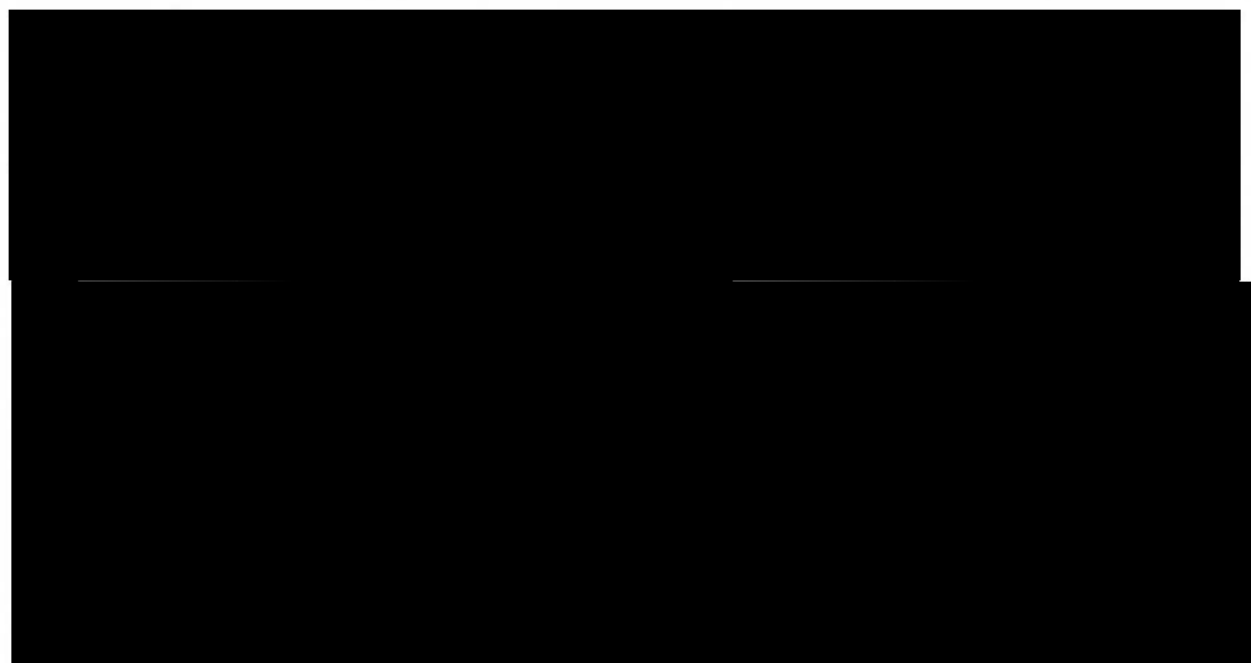
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10 PENAL CODE § 

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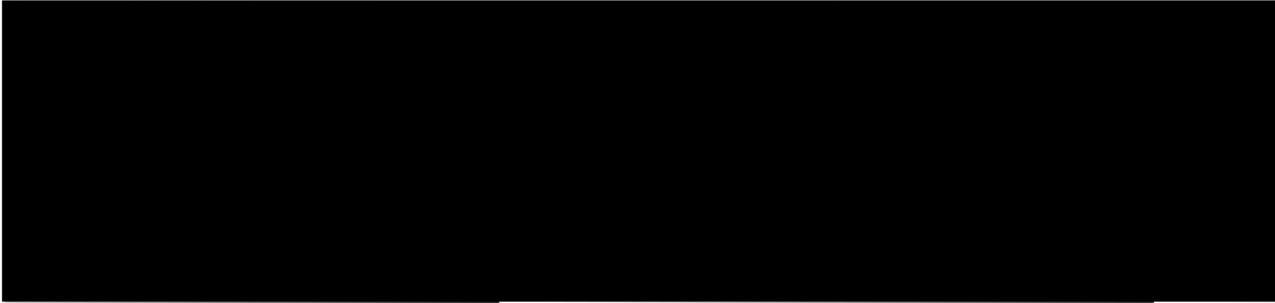
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24 PENAL CODE § 

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1 PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE § [REDACTED]

6 PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE § [REDACTED]

11 HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § [REDACTED]

20 PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE § [REDACTED]

25 GENERAL ORDER [REDACTED]

2 - SUMMARY:

On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, the NWS announced a Red Flag Warning (RFW) for Los Angeles County and Ventura County's. These county's will be impacted by Extreme Fire Weather and Major Winds beginning in the afternoon on January 7, 2025. At approximately 1811 hours, a brush fire broke out in the Eaton Canyon State Responsibility Area (SRA) of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. This incident occurred under the extreme fire weather conditions, including extreme offshore winds, higher ambient temperatures, and low relative humidities.

The fire, later identified as the Eaton Fire, was a deadly and destructive conflagration that burned over 14,000 acres, destroyed over 9,400 structures, and resulted in the death of 18 people. The Eaton Fire was sparked by an electrical event at the Southern California Edison (SCE) Transmission Towers, specifically the towers located at N- [REDACTED] W- [REDACTED] in Eaton Canyon.

Video evidence collected by the Eaton Fire Investigation team revealed two electrical arcing events that occurred in quick succession, leading to an unknown burning material falling from the SCE tower's location into the dry receptive fuel bed below.

The fuel bed ignited approximately twelve seconds after the burning material was seen falling from the arcing event. The Eaton Fire rapidly developed into a conflagration engulfing the areas of the San Gabriel Mountains, Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and La Canada Flintridge. It was fully contained 24 days later, on January 31, 2025.

3 - SUBJECT:

SB-1 Southern California Edison (SCE)

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue

Rosemead, CA 91770

Phone: [REDACTED]

Owner and Operator of Transmission Lines where the Eaton fire originated.

1 **4 - VICTIMS, WITNESSES, & OTHERS:**

2
3 VICTIMS:

4
5 Multiple Victims of the EATON fire are captured on the perimeter and parcels
6 map (see Damage Inspection Report (DINS) attachment #10.1)
7

8 WITNESSES:

9
10 Multiple Witnesses to the EATON fire are captured on CAL FIRE Axon report
11 (see CAL FIRE Axon Report attachment #10.2)
12

13 OTHERS:

14
15 O-1 Rick YARTZ Badge # [REDACTED]
16 Captain / Investigator – Los Angeles County Fire
17 1255 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 206
18 Monterey Park, CA 91754
19 Office: [REDACTED]
20 Lead investigator can testify to the origin and cause investigation
21

22 O-2 Raul RAMIREZ Badge # [REDACTED]
23 Captain / Investigator – Los Angeles County Fire
24 1255 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 206
25 Monterey Park, CA 91754
26 Office: [REDACTED]
27 Can testify to interviews and overall investigation
28

29 Additional Others to the EATON fire are captured on the CAL FIRE Axon report
30 (see CAL FIRE Axon Report attachment #10.2)

5 – EVIDENCE:

Item #1 – Media Storage Device (Camera video from [REDACTED] Canyon Close Rd, Pasadena, CA)

Item#1.1 – Orange County Regional Forensic Lab DVD enhancement

Item #2 – Beaded metallic-like substance (within the GOA)

Item #3 – Metallic-like object with beaded end appearance (within the GOA)

Item #4 – Metallic-like object with beaded end appearance (within the GOA)

Item #5 – Compact Disc (USMC video from [REDACTED] Palomar, Pasadena, CA)

Item #6 – CAL FIRE DVD 911 calls

Item #7 – Flash Drive Arco Video

Item #8 – SCE Data Storage device with media

Item #9 – CAL FIRE drone media

Additional digital evidence, photos, videos, Body Worn Camera (BWC), sketches, and reports were collected during the investigation and added to CAL FIRE evidence.com (see CAL FIRE Axon Report attachment #10.2).

6 – PHYSICAL CONDITIONS:

Weather information for Tuesday, January 7, 2025, was obtained from a remote automated weather station (RAWS) located in Henninger Flats, CA, approximately .62 miles north of the Eaton fire's origin. The RAWS recorded weather at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM. The estimated start time of the fire was 6:11 PM (see attachment # 10.3)

Date:	Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time:	6:00 PM
Temperature:	53.0 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point:	12 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity:	19 percent
Wind Speed:	37 miles per hour, gusts to 68 miles per hour
Wind Direction:	South
Fuel Temperature:	51.0 degrees Fahrenheit
GPS Coordinates:	Latitude 34° 11' 42", Longitude 118°05'36"
Elevation:	2800 feet above sea level

Date:	Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time:	7:00 PM
Temperature:	52.0 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point:	12 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity:	20 percent
Wind Speed:	26 miles per hour, gusts to 85 miles per hour
Wind Direction:	South
Fuel Temperature:	50.0 degrees Fahrenheit
GPS Coordinates:	Latitude 34° 11' 42", Longitude -118°05'36"
Elevation:	2800 feet above sea level

Second weather information for Tuesday, January 7, 2025, was obtained from a remote automated weather station (RAWS) located on Henninger Flats Rd, approximately .66 miles northeast of the Eaton fire's origin. The SCE Henninger Flats Rd (SE543) RAWS is owned and operated by Southern California Edison. The RAWS recorded weather at 6:10 PM and 6:20 PM. The estimated start time of the fire was 6:11 PM (see attachment #10.3)

Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time: 6:10 PM
Temperature: 53.8 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point: 16.57 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity: 22.83 percent
Wind Speed: 15.99 miles per hour, gusts to 40.18 miles per hour
Wind Direction: Northeast
GPS Coordinates: Latitude 34.19249, Longitude -118.08808
Elevation: 2609 feet above sea level

Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time: 6:20 PM
Temperature: 54.03 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point: 16.6 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity: 22.73 percent
Wind Speed: 19.28 miles per hour, gusts to 39.68 miles per hour
Wind Direction: Northeast
GPS Coordinates: Latitude 34.19249, Longitude -118.08808
Elevation: 2609 feet above sea level

Third weather information for Tuesday, January 7, 2025, was obtained from a remote automated weather station (RAWS) located in Eaton Canyon, approximately .86 miles southwest of the Eaton fire's origin. The SCE Eaton Canyon (SE215) RAWS is owned and operated by Southern California Edison. The RAWS recorded weather at 6:10 PM and 6:20 PM. The estimated start time of the fire was 6:11 PM. (see attachment #10.3)

Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time: 6:10
Temperature: 63.61 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point: 20.67 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity: 19.5 percent
Wind Speed: 27.27 miles per hour, gusts to 54.8 miles per hour
Wind Direction: North
GPS Coordinates: Latitude 34.17542, Longitude -118.09580
Elevation: 945 feet above sea level

Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time: 6:20
Temperature: 63.59 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point: 20.71 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity: 19.2 percent
Wind Speed: 29.97 miles per hour, gusts to 54 miles per hour
Wind Direction: North
GPS Coordinates: Latitude 34.17542, Longitude -118.09580
Elevation: 945 feet above sea level

Fourth weather information for Tuesday, January 7, 2025, was obtained from a remote automated weather station (RAWS) located on Henniger Trailhead, approximately .95 miles west of the Eaton fire's origin. The SCE Henniger Trailhead (SE587) RAWS is owned and operated by Southern California Edison. The RAWS recorded weather at 6:10 PM and 6:20 PM. The estimated start time of the fire was 6:11 PM.

(see attachment #10.3)

Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time: 6:10
Temperature: 61.74 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point: 18.51 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity: 18.66 percent
Wind Speed: 9.83 miles per hour, gusts to 34.2 miles per hour
Wind Direction: North
GPS Coordinates: Latitude 34.18289, Longitude -118.10405
Elevation: 1129 feet above sea level

Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025
Time: 6:20
Temperature: 61.74 degrees Fahrenheit
Dew Point: 18.54 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity: 18.68 percent
Wind Speed: 8.79 miles per hour, gusts to 20.75 miles per hour
Wind Direction: Northwest
GPS Coordinates: Latitude 34.18289, Longitude -118.10405
Elevation: 1129 feet above sea level

7 – EQUIPMENT:

Subject Tower # 1 (Mile 6 Tower 1) Lat. [REDACTED] N Long. [REDACTED] W

This transmission tower supported the Mesa Vincent #2 (east side) and Eagle Rock Mesa (west side) circuits. Each circuit consisted of three cross arms; each cross arm has two conductors on it. There is a total of 12 conductors on the tower (220KV). The conductors extend both north and south from the tower.

Subject Tower # 2 (Mile 24 Tower 3) Lat. [REDACTED] N Long. [REDACTED] W

This transmission tower supported the Mesa Vincent #1 (uphill east side) and Goodrich Gould circuits (downhill west side). Each circuit consisted of three cross arms; each cross arm has two conductors on it. There is a total of 12 conductors on the tower (220KV). The conductors extend both north and south from the tower.

Subject Tower # 3 (Mile 16 Tower 1) Lat. [REDACTED] N Long. [REDACTED] W

This transmission tower supported three conductors for the Mesa Sylmar Circuit (idle). The conductors are only on the west side of the tower and do not continue to the south.

8 – PROPERTY:

The Eaton fire origin was located approximately .56 miles northwest of Eaton Canyon trailhead. The Eaton Canyon trail is part of the Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park. It is described as a 198-acre natural preserve located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains in Pasadena and Altadena. The property contained high fuel density, with a mix of live and dead vegetation consisting primarily of Coastal Sage Shrub, Chaparral, Southern Oak Woodland, Riparian Woodland, and Alluvial Scrub.

The origin of the Eaton fire was located on property identified by Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 5857-020-800. The Los Angeles County Assessor's Office list the property as a 15.1-acre parcel owned by Southern California Edison. This information was obtained through lightbox vision (see attachment # 10.4).

The property owner's address and contact information are as follows:

Property Owner:

Southern California Edison (SCE)

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue

Rosemead, CA 91770

Phone: [REDACTED]

9 – NARRATIVE**Fire Origin and Cause Investigation**

The opinions and conclusions in this report are based on fire scene examination, physical evidence, photographs, analysis of fire damage, fire scene analysis, video footage, statements from subjects and witnesses, documents, and contracts. Barring the introduction of additional relevant evidence or information, the following are my opinions and conclusions regarding this investigation.

Notification: Tuesday, January 7, 2025

On Monday, January 6, 2025, the Los Angeles County Fire Department Arson Fire Investigation Unit (AFIU) augmented the AFIU with an additional investigator beginning January 7, 2025, due to a strong high-pressure system over the great basin creating powerful Santa Ana wind conditions that would potentially increase the call volume of the AFIU. I, was the additional investigator hired to augment the AFIU unit. Starting early in the day, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) was already engaged in a significant brush fire incident located in the Santa Monica Mountains of Los Angeles County, California (Palisades Fire). The California Governor had proclaimed a State of Emergency early on 1-7-2025 following the Palisades Fire burning over twelve hundred acres (see proclamation attachment 10.21). As a result of the increased fire activity, I decided to relocate from the El Monte AFIU station to a more central area within Los Angeles County, which would facilitate faster on-scene times for AFIU investigators if needed.

On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at approximately 1820 hours, an alert was sent out over Tablet Command for a brush fire in the Altadena area of Los Angeles County. This area is part of the Angeles National Forest, specifically the San Gabriel Mountains, located in northern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County. The mountain range is part of the Traverse Ranges and lies between the Los Angeles Basin and the Mojave Desert, with Interstate 5 to the west and Interstate 15 to the east. Much of the range features rolling peaks but contains many canyons, which are generally very



1 rugged and challenging to traverse. Chaparral (dense shrub, brush, and small tree)
2 vegetation is widespread, lacking continuous tall tree cover at lower elevations. The
3 southern side of the range is almost continuously urbanized, encompassing the City of
4 Altadena.

5 I was at LACoFD Station 124 in the community of Stevenson Ranch when the
6 Tablet Command alert was received. I left Fire Station 124 and started driving toward
7 Altadena, anticipating the need for an investigator. While driving to Altadena, I
8 monitored the command frequency assigned to the incident. At approximately 1853
9 hours, a command post location was announced at Farnsworth Park, followed by a 2nd
10 alarm request by the Incident Commander (IC) at 1908 hours. At approximately 1910
11 hours, I arrived at the Incident Command Post (ICP), reported to the Incident
12 Commander (IC), and assumed the role of Lead Investigator for the Eaton Incident. The
13 CP was engaged in managing an incredibly fast-moving brush fire that threatened
14 structures, resulting in multiple calls for people trapped by the fire, all amid extreme
15 wind conditions. The IC advised me that a Pasadena Fire Engine Company was first on
16 the scene in the area of [REDACTED] Canyon Close Road and Altadena Drive in Altadena.
17 LACoFD Captain Investigator 5 CASEY FLANDERS (# [REDACTED]), LACoFD Investigator 4
18 JASON HAUGEN (# [REDACTED]), and LACoFD Investigator 7 EDDIE MARTINEZ (# [REDACTED])
19 arrived at the ICP at approximately 1925. I briefed the investigators on the current
20 situation and then shared the information provided by the IC.

21 22 Preliminary Investigation

23 I decided to try to get to [REDACTED] Canyon Close Road with all four investigators. As I
24 drove through Altadena, I observed extreme fire and wind conditions. The time of day
25 (night), smoke, and flying debris hampered visibility on the road. I observed fallen trees
26 and electrical wires blocking many of the streets. I observed multiple blocks of
27 residential and commercial buildings burning. I observed the same extreme wind and
28 visibility issues as I approached the intersection of Canyon Close Road and Altadena
29 Drive.



1 A Pasadena Battalion Chief vehicle and several engine companies were
2 deployed along the street. I approached the Battalion Chief's vehicle and introduced
3 myself as an investigator. The person in the vehicle was Pasadena Battalion Chief [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED], who stated he had the Canyon Close Structure Protection Group assignment.
5 [REDACTED] said he was one of the first units on the scene. When [REDACTED] first arrived, he
6 was at Canyon Close Drive and Altadena Drive on the south end. [REDACTED] stated that he
7 could see fire under the electrical towers across the canyon.

8 The investigators continued to [REDACTED] Canyon Close Road. The neighborhood
9 comprises one- and two-story single-family homes. We arrived at [REDACTED] Canyon Close
10 Road. The structure is a one-story, single-family dwelling; the address side faces south-
11 southwest. I went to the backyard to see if I could obtain a visual of the electrical
12 towers mentioned by [REDACTED]. The backyard faces north-northeast over the Eaton Wash
13 area. It was dark and smoky, and the area was still experiencing extreme fire behavior.
14 Visibility was minimal due to the time of day (night), smoke, ash, and fire in the Eaton
15 Wash area.

16 I noted this location and planned to return in the morning, hoping for safer
17 conditions to conduct the Origin and Cause (O&C) investigation.

18 Later that night, at approximately 2130 hours, CAL FIRE Captain Bennet
19 MILLOY contacted me via text. MILLOY said he was assigned to the Eaton Incident to
20 assist the Los Angeles County Fire Department with the investigation and that he had
21 heard the plan was to initiate an O&C in the morning. I communicated to MILLOY that I
22 planned to return at first light in the morning to check the area. It was not safe to do it
23 tonight. I also said I would meet him at Farnsworth Park at about 0700 hours the next
24 day. I was planning to leave the area, but considering the primary focus of the incident
25 was the preservation of life and that the incident had limited resource availability, I
26 decided to remain in the Altadena area to assist in locating or removing residents
27 trapped at home or in their vehicles who could not leave due to the advancing fire.
28 After assisting with evacuations, I went to the Eaton Fire ICP.

1 **Wednesday, January 8, 2025.**

2 I then went to LACoFD Camp 2 to sleep for a couple of hours. At approximately
3 0500 hours, I returned to the Altadena area and continued to assist those who needed
4 help evacuating the area due to the extreme fire behavior.

5 At approximately 0630 hours, I contacted MILLOY, stating that I did not think we
6 could meet this morning due to fire behavior and life safety issues, but I would contact
7 him later. MILLOY advised me that he was already out and would be here in 20
8 minutes. MILLOY also wanted to know the location of the initial report and whether I
9 had 911 caller information. I replied that the original meeting location was burned over
10 and that we could meet at Lake and Altadena when he arrived.

11 I met up with MILLOY at approximately 0655 hours; I briefed him on the current
12 situation and the location of an area of interest. We both drove to [REDACTED] Canyon Close
13 Road. This area's fire and weather conditions had significantly improved since last
14 night; visibility in most directions is now up to or more than a mile.

15 I observed a male adult standing and spraying down smoldering vegetation in the
16 front yard of the address. His California Driver's License identified this person as
17 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] lives at [REDACTED] Canyon Close Road, Pasadena, CA
18 91107.

19
20 Interview

21 MILLOY and I interviewed [REDACTED] in his backyard. MILLOY utilized his body
22 camera during the interview. The following summarizes our conversation (see
23 [REDACTED] interview MILLOY attachment #10.5). [REDACTED] was in his home, looking out
24 his back window, and saw fire on the mountain across from the canyon. [REDACTED]
25 described it as a 10' x 10' fire at the base of a high-voltage electrical tower. [REDACTED]
26 said there was no smoke or fire in the riverbed below his home or the canyon east of
27 the tower. I took photos from the location. [REDACTED] said he called 911, reported the
28 fire, and went to warn neighbors. [REDACTED] said the fire spread to 50' x 100' within a
29 few minutes. MILLOY and I looked across the canyon in the direction [REDACTED]
30 described, seeing the fire.

1 I observed Tower #1 and Tower #2 and faintly saw sections of Tower #3 sitting
2 on a spur ridge across the Eaton Wash. MILLOY said they appeared to be transmission
3 towers and lines. MILLOY observed predominantly advancing fire indicators showing
4 the fire moved from the north to the southwest in the Eaton Wash below the bluff on
5 which [REDACTED]'s home sat. He also noted what appeared to be macro indicators and
6 lateral fire indicators on the west-facing canyon slopes on the north side of Eaton Wash
7 (see MILLOY narrative attachment #10.5).

8 [REDACTED] said that approximately 15 minutes after first seeing the fire, he saw a
9 person walking on the trail in the wash with a flashlight. He dismissed the idea that a
10 hiker may have been in the area due to the winds. He denied that he saw transient or
11 homeless activity around the canyon from where he saw the fire come from. He told us
12 he sometimes sees people experiencing homelessness (PEH) at a bridge further west
13 of the wash. He dismissed the idea that people would hang out or party in the area
14 where he saw the fire. He did not have any surveillance cameras on this home.

15 [REDACTED] did mention a neighbor across the street who may have surveillance cameras.

16 [REDACTED] then took us into his home to show us where he was when he first saw
17 the fire. We noted that we could see the same three electrical towers on the narrow
18 spur ridge. The view of the mountain behind [REDACTED]'s home is framed by two
19 ornamental trees on each side of a solarium at the rear of his home. The arrangement
20 of the trees and windows resulted in a narrow opening, with the spur ridge
21 approximately centered. I took photos of the view from where [REDACTED] was standing
22 when he first saw the fire.

24 EATON CANYON TRAILHEAD

25 MILLOY and I reached the Eaton Canyon trailhead parking lot. I then
26 reconfirmed that the area [REDACTED] identified was within the State Responsibility Area
27 (SRA). MILLOY and I briefly discussed the magnitude of this incident and that we
28 needed assistance to conduct this investigation. I then notified LACoFD Battalion Chief
29 Jessica POST, as She was my point of contact initially for the investigation and
30 requested assistance from CAL FIRE.

1 We then recognized the open parking area leading to the Eaton Wash Trailhead,
2 which was discussed in [REDACTED]'s backyard. The trailhead for Eaton Canyon can be
3 accessed here. The Eaton Canyon Trail is part of the Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park.
4 It is described as a 198-acre natural preserve located at the base of the San Gabriel
5 Mountains in Pasadena, California. The park is open for day use only, with no camping
6 facilities available. The Eaton Canyon Trail follows the Eaton Wash and leads to a
7 waterfall.

8 As we looked in a general northern direction, we observed the Mount Wilson
9 range, described as steep and rugged terrain. Several spur ridges extend off the
10 mountain in a general east-to-west direction. At the toe of the mountain, we observed a
11 walking path on the northeast bank of the Eaton Wash that generally runs north-south.
12 We noted advancing fire indicators through the park and riverbed showing the fire
13 moved from the north to the southwest. We observed what looked to be switchbacks of
14 a truck trail ascending in the direction of Mount Wilson. We observed homes above us
15 on the west edge of Eaton Wash. We recognized these homes as homes on Canyon
16 Close Road. We also observed homes to the south-southeast on the Kinneloa Mesa.

17 We observed areas with transmission towers set on three separate spur ridges.
18 The conductors paralleled the topography of the mountain range and dry riverbed. I
19 observed a set of transmission towers on the mountain north of my location and higher
20 on the mountain range. This set of towers will hereafter be referred to as the upper
21 towers. A set of towers located east of my position, situated lower on the mountain just
22 above the dry riverbed near Kinneloa Mesa, will be referred to as the lower towers.
23 Between the upper and lower towers is a middle set of towers. This middle set consists
24 of three towers running northeast to southwest on the spur ridge. For clarity, this middle
25 set of three towers would later be labeled by numbers. The southwest tower of the
26 grouping would later be referred to as Tower #1. The northeast and shortest tower is
27 referred to as Tower #3. The tower between Tower #1 and Tower #3 is referred to as
28 Tower #2. MILLOY and I recognize the middle set of towers, as the set of towers
29 [REDACTED] told us he first saw fire below them, precisely at the base of Tower #1.
30

1 Due to the size and topography of the Overall Fire Area (OFA), it was impossible
2 to walk the perimeter of the OFA. The macro indicators seen from [REDACTED]'s house
3 and the fire indicators at the Eaton Canyon Trail parking lot led MILLOY and I to walk
4 north from the trailhead.

5 As you cross over the wash, the trail turns in a more northwesterly direction. We
6 were now on the northeast side of Eaton Wash. As we walked on the path, we
7 observed angle of char on trees, indicating advancing fire that progressed from further
8 west on the Eaton Wash. At the Coyote Canyon trail sign, approximately 1/3 to 1/2 mile
9 in on the trail from the parking lot, we noted the lateral indicators we had seen from Mr.
10 [REDACTED]'s house. As we continued west, we noted that the advancing indicators
11 shifted to a western progression, indicating that the fire had descended what we would
12 later learn was Coyote Canyon. MILLOY and I hiked up a spur ridge to the east of the
13 Coyote Canyon trail. I then traversed up the draw one ridge west of MILLOY's location
14 on the spur ridge. The indicators were consistent with what we had observed from the
15 mouth of Coyote Canyon Trail.

16 As I traversed the draw, I reached a location where I could traverse the east side
17 and access the ridge's top. From this location, I observed Coyote Canyon to the west,
18 the spur ridge on which MILLOY was to the east, and the middle set of towers to the
19 north. I observed a narrow game trail traveling along the top of the spur ridge, leading
20 up to the middle towers to the north and then down the spur ridge towards the Eaton
21 Wash area. I observed Angle of Char on the trees, Sooting, and Staining on rocks. The
22 fire was advancing westerly, confirming what we had observed from below. I continued
23 up the spur ridge in the direction of the middle towers, taking photographs as I made my
24 way. I avoided any area of interest and stayed on the game trail to the back of the
25 Middle Towers. I took photographs of the area around the Middle Towers.

26 I recorded the latitude and longitude in degrees and decimal minutes as [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED], W [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and then descended the spur ridge. As I approached
28 the lower section of the spur ridge, I observed a Mesa just west of my location. On this
29 Mesa, I observed what looked like a campsite. I met up with MILLOY and informed him
30 that I had hiked past the Middle Towers and photographed indicators along the spur

1 ridge up to and past the Middle Towers. I had also observed what appeared to be a
2 campsite on the Mesa towards the bottom of the spur ridge.

3 MILLOY and I hiked over to Mesa and observed a rock ring, whole bananas, food
4 in a pot, various cooking pots, metal cans, and fiberglass poles in the shape of a
5 square, which suggested to us that a tent had been burned. A second rock ring and the
6 remnants of fiberglass poles were located approximately ten yards west of the first, and
7 a third area is approximately ten yards southwest of the second. We also observed
8 remnants of fiberglass poles here. Based on the contents observed at the sites, it
9 appears that it was not likely a recreational campsite; additionally, recreational camping
10 is not allowed within Eaton Canyon. The campsites are approximately 1,200 feet
11 southwest of the Middle towers.

12 The fire pattern indicates a predominantly advancing fire that progressed across
13 the Mesa to the west, indicating that the fire originated further up the spur ridge north of
14 the campsite. MILLOY and I recognized that the top of Coyote Canyon and the spur
15 ridge above the Mesa area were a potential General Origin Area (GOA). The decision
16 was made to return to the Eaton Canyon Nature Center adjacent to the parking lot at
17 the trailhead. We placed crime scene tape across the entrance to the trailhead as we
18 exited the area.

20 FUEL MODEL

21 The wildland fuel model for Eaton Canyon, typically classified as "Chaparral"
22 (fuel model 6), is primarily characterized by dense, flammable vegetation, such as
23 shrubs and small trees, with high fuel loading.

25 FUEL CHARACTERISTICS

26 High fuel density, with a mix of live and dead vegetation, often with a high fuel
27 moisture content during wet seasons but rapidly drying out in the summer.

VEGETATION

The area consists primarily of five plant communities: Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, Southern Oak Woodland, Riparian Woodland, and Alluvial Scrub.

Interview

At approximately 1100 hours, MILLOY and I exited the trailhead. We were in the parking lot when a male and female approached us. [REDACTED] asked when their power would be restored. MILLOY told her he was unsure and asked if she was at home when the fire occurred. [REDACTED] told MILLOY her husband was home. [REDACTED] acted as a translator for [REDACTED], her husband. He was home, and the power had gone off, so it was very dark. He later saw the light and realized it was a fire. He then called his wife to inform her about the fire at approximately 1845 hours on January 7, 2025. He saw the fire approaching a concrete control channel in front of their home (see MILLOY attachment #10.5).

EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER

At approximately 1115 hours, Captain MILLOY and I stopped to speak with Los Angeles County Sheriff (LASO) deputies near the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We observed cameras on the burned structure. MILLOY spoke with LASO Deputy [REDACTED] (see [REDACTED] interview MILLOY attachment #10.5). He was asked if he usually works in the area of the park. He told us that two other deputies regularly patrol the park. MILLOY gave [REDACTED] his business card and asked him to have those deputies contact him regarding anyone who may have been living or camping in the area.

[REDACTED] called Deputy [REDACTED] to meet MILLOY. [REDACTED] told MILLOY that he had trespassed people from the park approximately two years prior. [REDACTED] was not aware of anything recently. [REDACTED] said he would pass our contact information on to another deputy who may know more about people living or camping in the park. I requested that a LASO Deputy be posted at the west

1 end of the Eaton Canyon Trailhead. The LASO informed us that deputies would also
2 be in the area.

3 I then interviewed [REDACTED], a Natural Area Biologist for the County of Los
4 Angeles, who conducts fieldwork out of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. [REDACTED]
5 worked at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. [REDACTED] said
6 she did not know of anyone camping or living in the park. The park did not have any
7 game cameras up on the trails. The park was closed for the day because of the wind.
8 [REDACTED] left the area at 1730 hours on the night of January 7, 2025, there was no
9 suspicious activity in the park. During the interview with [REDACTED], a Los Angeles County
10 Parks and Regional Manager, [REDACTED] told us that Eaton Canyon Nature Center's
11 surveillance camera footage was stored on a local DVR that was burned in the building.
12 [REDACTED] informed us that the Eaton Canyon Nature Center had no water, gas, or
13 electrical power interruptions during her shift on January 7, 2025. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
14 were at the nature center for most of the day; they left it at approximately 1730 hours.

15 I then left the area and drove to the command post to update the Incident
16 Commander (IC) on the status of the investigation, the status for assistance made to
17 CAL FIRE, and the need to secure the Eaton Canyon Trailhead for the next 24 hours
18 until private security personnel arrived on the scene.

19 MILLOY followed up on an address provided by [REDACTED] on the morning of
20 January 8, 2025, who may have had a surveillance video of the fire. MILLOY met with
21 [REDACTED] at approximately 1414 hours. [REDACTED] lives at [REDACTED] Canyon Close Rd,
22 Pasadena, CA 91107. The following is a summary of the conversation (see MILLOY
23 [REDACTED] Interview attachment 10.5). [REDACTED] told MILLOY he was home on Tuesday,
24 January 7, eating dinner. Between 1812 and 1815 hours, he received a phone call that
25 there was a fire on the mountain. He knew that the fire would spread rapidly because of
26 the strong winds. [REDACTED] and his wife immediately started evacuating. They moved all
27 their vehicles out of the garage. They loaded items into a minivan. [REDACTED] told MILLOY
28 he had video surveillance that showed the fire starting on the mountain north of his
29 home. [REDACTED] showed MILLOY the video on his phone. The footage showed a low-light
30 view of the mountain and the home across the street. You could see the sidewalk and

1 the tree in front of [REDACTED]'s home. According to the video time stamp, at approximately
2 1811 hours on January 7, 2025, two bright blue and white flashes were seen mid-slope;
3 the first flash was brighter than the second. An orange glow is seen as if it were
4 dripping fire or glowing material from the bright blue and white flashes. When the
5 second flash happens, more glowing orange material drips and falls towards the ground
6 (see MILLOY narrative attachment #10.5).

7 [REDACTED] said that the flash was located at a set of transmission towers on the face of
8 the mountain. MILLOY recognized the location that [REDACTED] was pointing to as Tower #1.
9 This is the same set of towers (middle towers) that [REDACTED] saw fire below from his
10 backyard. [REDACTED] had previously placed this camera on his home to watch the mountain
11 north of his home because of the fire that occurred in 1993 (The KINNALOA FIRE).
12 [REDACTED] wanted to watch for fire so his family could rapidly evacuate. [REDACTED] showed the
13 camera's location on his home to MILLOY.

15 GOA PROTECTION

16 At approximately 1630 hours, MILLOY and I met with CAL FIRE Battalion Chief
17 HOWERTON and CAL FIRE Battalion Chief KIRKHART at the Eaton Canyon Trailhead.
18 It was determined that a security company would be ordered to secure the potential
19 GOA that MILLOY and I identified. HOWERTON informed us that several other
20 investigators were enroute to the Eaton Incident to assist. With few remaining daylight
21 hours left, the decision was made to wait until the following day to start the formal Origin
22 and Cause in the GOA, when the light and visibility would be better. HOWERTON
23 stayed in the parking lot of Eaton Canyon to provide scene security. Two LASO
24 Deputies arrived, and the deputies were informed about the private security guards
25 responding to the scene. [REDACTED] Security's eta was approximately 2100 hours, and
26 once the security team arrived, the LASO deputies were free to leave.

27 [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] Security and Risk Management notified MILLOY
28 that they were enroute. [REDACTED] informed MILLOY that his security staff would be in
29 place to secure the Eaton Canyon Trail Head at 2100 hours tonight, and they would
30 transition with the LASO deputy. [REDACTED] security guard [REDACTED] was

assigned to the 2100-0900 shift, and [REDACTED] was assigned to the 0900-2100 shift. The trail head remand secured by security personal from [REDACTED] Security and Risk Management until January 16, 2025 at approximately 0900 hours (see attachment #10.16 [REDACTED] Security).

Investigation plan – Thursday, January 9, 2025

The investigation team met at LACoFD Fire Station 181 on Thursday, January 9, at approximately 0800 hours. MILLOY and I briefed the team on the information gathered. The investigation team then developed the investigation plan. The decision was made to order a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) Team to assist with the investigation. CAL Fire Assistant Chief Brian Hawkins later requested CAL FIRE LiDAR team.

I was assigned the case agent by LACoFD Battalion Chief Jessica POST. It was decided that the team would be divided into two smaller teams: Origin and Cause (O&C) and Interview and Intelligence (I&I).

The Interview and Intelligence Team:

The I&I Team was CAL FIRE Battalion Chief HOWERTON, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief KIRKHART, Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Investigator SCHROEDER, OSFM Investigator ELDER, and LACoFD Investigator RAMIREZ.

The Origin and Cause Team:

The O&C Team was CAL FIRE Battalion Chief GILBERT, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief GREEN, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief WALLACE, CAL FIRE Captain MILLOY and I.

ORIGIN AND CAUSE

At approximately 1030 hours, the O&C team arrived at the intersection of Eaton Canyon Trail and Coyote Trail. GILBERT conducted a short safety briefing. We initiated the Origin and Cause investigation by following the curriculum established in National Wildfire Coordinating Group FI-210, the internationally recognized process for

1 wildfire investigations. The O&C team identified a GOA by walking through the Coyote
2 Canyon area and areas with predominantly advancing indicators.

3 The O&C team then hiked up to the spur ridge east of Coyote Canyon, following
4 the path I had taken the previous day. I took the O&C team to the area where the two
5 rock rings were located on the Mesa and then turned and continued up the ridge
6 following the path. It was determined that, due to the steepness of the sides on the spur
7 ridge, we would hike up the spur ridge to observe indicators at elevation, extending
8 down into the canyon.

9 As the O&C team worked up the ridge, we noted the lateral indicators we had
10 seen from [REDACTED]'s home. They looked to be indicators consistent with a flank of the
11 fire. The macro indicators in the canyon walls showed advancing fire coming down the
12 canyon from further up on the ridge. This process continued as we approached the
13 small saddle below Tower #1. The ridge is narrow, and the canyon walls are extremely
14 steep. As you climb up, the right side of the spur ridge has eroded to form a cliff face
15 near the southeast leg of Tower #1. There were indicators of lateral or backing fire on
16 the slope below the two southern legs of Tower #1, with advancing indicators running
17 beneath the tower. The span of Tower #1's legs encompassed the entirety of the top of
18 the spur ridge.

19 The O&C team followed the game trail of bare soil beneath the tower. We noted
20 advancing indicators coming up the southeast-facing slope, running towards Tower #2.
21 The O&C team noted lateral indicators on the same slope near an old, eroded service
22 road. The O&C team observed advancing indicators dropping off the steep edge of the
23 northwest-facing slope of the ridge top. This slope leads down into Coyote Canyon.

24 The O&C team hiked back down the spur ridge and up Coyote Canyon again,
25 observing advancing indicators from the fire as it progressed down Coyote Canyon to
26 Eaton Wash. The O&C team observed three separate advancing runs that led back up
27 the slope to the area near Tower #1 and Tower #2.

28 The O&C team discussed where it would be feasible and safe to begin placing
29 flags at the indicators, given the extreme steepness of the slope on each side of the
30 spur ridge. The macro indicators we observed would place a large GOA at the top of

1 the spur ridge, extending off the eastern side onto the steep and sandy slope. It wasn't
2 safe or possible to approach from the bottom of the canyons on each side.

3 The decision was made to work on the top of the spur ridge and as low as safely
4 possible on the southeastern face. At approximately 1430 hours, we again ascended
5 the spur ridge. The O&C team placed flags to mark fire pattern indicators, using RED for
6 advancing, YELLOW for lateral, BLUE for backing, and GREEN for items of interest.
7 MILLOY identified a lateral edge of the burn scar on the south-facing slope below Tower
8 #1. Due to the topography, we were forced not to follow the normal process of moving
9 in a "Z" pattern.

10 MILLOY altered it by working along that lateral edge to the east until we could no
11 longer safely place the flags. The O&C team began working on the east-facing slope.
12 We looked for indicators showing Protection, Grass Stem Fall, Freezing, Angle of Char,
13 Spalling, Curling, Sooting, Staining, Cupping, and "U" or "V" patterns. The decision was
14 made to hike out before dark. At approximately 1630 hours, the O&C team descended
15 the spur ridge on the same path we had ascended to the towers.

16
17 **NIGHT BRIEFING January 9, 2025**

18 Interview and Intelligence team:

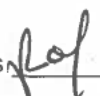
19 The I&I team's assignment was to locate witnesses and establish contact with
20 residents of Eaton Canyon and Kinneloa Mesa. The following is a summary of the
21 interviews conducted on January 9th.

22 Several residents described seeing the fire at the base of the Middle Towers.

23 Others described seeing an arc or a blueish-white light, followed by a small fire at
24 the base of the Middle Towers, across from Eaton Wash. One resident explained that
25 his lights surged at approximately 1600 hours. The contacts made that day provided
26 several photographs and videos.

27
28 ██████████'s interview was conducted by investigator ELDER

29 On January 7, 2025, at approximately 1815 hours, a neighbor of ██████████
30 rang his doorbell and told him about the fire on the hill. ██████████ walked out to the front



1 yard and looked east towards the mountain. [REDACTED] could see the glow of the
2 flame on the ground under the power line towers. (See [REDACTED] interview
3 ELDER attachment #10.6).

4
5 [REDACTED]'s interview was conducted by investigator ELDER

6 On January 7, 2025, at approximately 1600 hours, [REDACTED] was on his phone. He
7 stated that the lights in his room surged but did not go out. At approximately 1810
8 hours, he went outside with his father and looked eastbound. He could see flames
9 under the powerline tower. [REDACTED] said he observed an arc while watching the fire;
10 he described it as a blue light. [REDACTED] took pictures of the fire at approximately
11 1825 hours, then watched as the flames grew more extensive due to the high winds.
12 (See [REDACTED] interview ELDER attachment #10.6).

13
14 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator KIRKHART

15 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED] stated that he was at home when he
16 noticed a fire on the hill directly under the power line towers. He pointed at the Middle
17 Towers (Towers 1, 2, and 3). [REDACTED] lives at [REDACTED] Alta Dena Dr. Alta Dena. After
18 [REDACTED] returned from calling 911, he began to film the fire. The video and
19 photographs showed the fire directly under the Middle Towers.
20 (See [REDACTED] Interview KIRKHART attachment #10.7).

21
22 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator SCHROEDER

23 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED] was at home when the fire started. [REDACTED]
24 and [REDACTED] live at [REDACTED] Canyon View Lane, Pasadena, CA. [REDACTED] said
25 he turned the cameras off due to the wind. [REDACTED] was asked if he saw where the
26 fire had started; [REDACTED] went to his backyard and pointed across Eaton Canyon.
27 [REDACTED] said his neighbors had told him where the fire had started. [REDACTED]
28 was asked if he had seen the fire himself. [REDACTED] said he had seen the fire
29 himself. SCHROEDER clarified with [REDACTED] that the location he had seen the fire
30 was Tower #1. [REDACTED] stated a neighbor had a picture of the fire when it first

1 started. [REDACTED] said that they both saw the fire at Tower #1. [REDACTED] directed
2 SCHROEDER to Fox Ridge Drive for another witness. (See [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
3 Interview SCHROEDER attachment #10.8).

4
5 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator SCHROEDER

6 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Canyon View
7 Lane, Pasadena, CA. [REDACTED] stated he did not see the fire start and had no further
8 information. (See [REDACTED] interview SCHROEDER attachment #10.8).

9
10 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator SCHROEDER

11 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Fox Ridge Drive,
12 Pasadena, CA. [REDACTED] said he did not have any cameras and did not see the fire. He
13 only saw the orange glow and then evacuated the area.
14 (See [REDACTED] interview SCHROEDER attachment #10.8).

15
16 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator SCHROEDER

17 On January 7, 2015, [REDACTED] was home when she saw the fire. [REDACTED]
18 daughter alerted her when she said a fire was out the window. Thirty seconds later,
19 [REDACTED] saw the fire below an electrical tower, Tower #1. [REDACTED] took several
20 photographs. The photographs depicted a fire below Tower #1. (See [REDACTED]
21 Interview SCHROEDER attachment #10.8).

22
23 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator SCHROEDER

24 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED] said he did not see any fire and only saw
25 smoke near the canyon. [REDACTED] did not remember the exact time the fire started until
26 another neighbor came by and clarified the details. (See [REDACTED] Interview
27 SCHROEDER attachment #10.8).

1 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator SCHROEDER

2 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED] was home during the fire.

3 [REDACTED] did not immediately see the fire but was informed by his neighbors.

4 [REDACTED] took several photos approximately 12 minutes after the fire was first seen.

5 (See [REDACTED] interview SCHROEDER attachment #10.8)

7 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator RAMIREZ

8 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who lives at [REDACTED] Canyon Close Rd.,
9 said he noticed the lights flicker in his residence. [REDACTED] went outside and saw a fire
10 at the base of the transmission tower across Eaton Wash and called 911.

11 (See [REDACTED] interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9).

13 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Interview conducted by investigator RAMIREZ

14 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who live at [REDACTED] Canyon
15 View Ln, Pasadena, said that while driving home a little after 1800, they saw a glow and
16 a little ring of fire around the base of the transmission tower northeast of their home. [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] gathered their belongings, took a picture, dialed 911, and left
18 their home. (See [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9).

20 [REDACTED] interview conducted by investigator RAMIREZ

21 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who lives at [REDACTED] Braeburn Rd.
22 Altadena, CA, was driving southbound on Altadena Drive towards New York Drive from
23 Mendocino Lane. [REDACTED] stated she captured a video of a fire at the base of the
24 transmission tower at approximately 1822 hours.

25 (See [REDACTED] interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9).

27 [REDACTED] interview conducted by investigator RAMIREZ

28 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who lives at [REDACTED] Canyon Close Rd.
29 Pasadena, CA. This was the second interview with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said he
30 checked the canyons every half hour due to the high winds and that he survived the

1 Kinneloa Fire in 1993. At approximately 1800 hours, [REDACTED] saw fire at the base of
2 the transmission towers; he also mentioned he saw a person in the wash with a
3 flashlight. (See [REDACTED] Interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9).

4
5 **Friday, January 10, 2025**

6 The decision was made to order Electrical Engineers to provide analysis and
7 advisement to the Investigation Team. HAWKINS later requested Electrical Engineers
8 [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] from [REDACTED].

9 The investigation team met at the Eaton Canyon Trail parking lot on Thursday,
10 January 10, 2025, at approximately 0800 hours. The O&C team took the I&I team to
11 [REDACTED]'s home to see the view from his residence. [REDACTED] offered to give us the SD card
12 from his camera that showed the bright white and blue flashes and the start of the fire.
13 [REDACTED] placed a ladder at his garage; GILBERT and I climbed onto [REDACTED]'s roof to
14 see the camera's vantage point. I took a photo of the view and collected the SD card at
15 approximately 0915 hours from [REDACTED] as potential evidence.

16 The O&C team returned to Eaton Canyon at approximately 1000 hours, we
17 ascended on our established route to the GOA and resumed the process of placing
18 flags. The O&C team continued to process the east-facing slope, which was hampered
19 by the steep and loose soil. As MILLOY worked in a northerly direction, the loose soil
20 would slide down the slope with each step. It would cause loose rocks and boulders to
21 tumble and fall into the canyon below.

22 MILLOY flagged many items of interest that looked like parts from the towers
23 lying on and in the soil around the towers. Some items appeared to be rusted,
24 suggesting they had been present at the location for an extended period. Some items
25 appeared to be parts from the construction and possibly from previous maintenance of
26 the towers. We noted rocks with sooting and staining with a clean line of delineation,
27 indicating that significant quantities of the loose soil had been eroded between the fire
28 and our examination of the area.

29 The O&C team began to locate lateral indicators near the eroded service road to
30 the towers. Keeping with the methodology used on the south side of the fire, the O&C

1 team worked up the slope, flagging the lateral indicators that led to the west, north of
2 Tower #2. MILLOY observed the overall pattern of the indicators we had flagged. It
3 encompassed the entirety of the bases of Tower #1 and Tower #2. It is a large area
4 where the lateral edges narrowed as they moved to the east.

5 The O&C team noted no discernable heal where the two narrowing lateral edges
6 meet. The O&C team discussed some deductive reasoning for why no discernable heal
7 would be present. Based on the indicators present, the topography, wind, and the fine
8 fuels where backing indicators could be present may have been blown from the razer
9 back spur ridge by the extremely high winds, or possibly the indicators had been
10 denuded and slid off into the canyon below after the fire moved through. Multiple
11 advancing runs were caused by rollout into the canyon, followed by slope and wind-
12 aligned uphill runs.

13 MILLOY took photos of the flagged indicators to document them. MILLOY also
14 began to take pictures of the Middle Towers to document them. We noted that the sun
15 was directly in line with the towers he was trying to photograph. We decided to take
16 overall photos of the Middle Towers the next day, with more favorable lighting. At
17 approximately 1630 hours, the O&C team descended the spur ridge.

19 **Night Briefing January 10, 2025**

20 The I&I team's assignment was to search for witnesses and initiate contact with
21 residents of Eaton Canyon and Kinneloa Mesa. The following is a summary of the
22 interviews conducted on January 10th.

23 Several residents described seeing the fire at the base of the electrical towers,
24 the Middle Towers. One resident described seeing the fire moving uphill from the
25 electrical towers and then moving downhill toward another tower. Electrical outages
26 were reported approximately 45 minutes prior to the fire. Witnesses provided several
27 pictures, videos, and a sketch.

1 [REDACTED] interview conducted by HOWERTON

2 On January 10, 2025, [REDACTED], who lives at [REDACTED] Lindaloe Lane,
3 Pasadena, CA, was interviewed; this interview took place in Long Beach due to the
4 [REDACTED]'s being evacuated from their home because of the fire. [REDACTED] said she
5 was at home on January 7, 2025, doing dishes with her daughter when she first saw the
6 fire. [REDACTED] said she observed orange sparks on the ground; the sparks grew into
7 a red circle. The circle of fire was located at the base of the transmission towers. [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] described Tower #3 as the location of the fire, and the fire was about the size
9 of the tower's base. [REDACTED] also stated the electrical power to her home went out
10 at approximately 1730 hours, approximately 45 minutes before the fire. [REDACTED]
11 provided a sketch of the towers but wanted to meet later at her home to show what she
12 had seen. [REDACTED] provided pictures and video taken at the time of the fire. (See
13 [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON attachment #10.11).

14
15 [REDACTED] interview conducted by HOWERTON

16 On January 10, 2025, [REDACTED], daughter of [REDACTED] lives at [REDACTED]
17 Lindaloe Lane, Pasadena, CA. The interview took place in Long Beach. [REDACTED]
18 was in the kitchen when she noticed a light outside the window. [REDACTED] put on her
19 glasses to see better; she realized the light she saw was a fire, and she pointed this out
20 to her mother ([REDACTED]). [REDACTED] describes the fire as a ring of orange fire
21 around the base of the electrical tower. [REDACTED] was unable to describe what
22 tower. [REDACTED] said she took a video of the fire from her bedroom window and
23 provided a sketch to the investigator to illustrate what she saw. [REDACTED] also said
24 she would be able to provide a better description of what she had seen from her home.
25 (see [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON attachment #10.11)

26
27 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interview conducted by RAMIREZ

28 On January 10, 2025, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who live at [REDACTED] Canyon
29 View Lane, Pasadena, CA. The [REDACTED]s contacted the I&I team member via cell
30 phone and stated that while driving home on January 7, 2025, on Altadena Drive, they

1 could see a small glow, described as a ring of fire around the base of the transmission
2 tower northeast of their home. The fire grew quickly. When they arrived home, they
3 gathered their belongings, took a picture, called 911, and then left their home. The
4 picture was taken and subsequently published in the [REDACTED]
5 (see [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9)

6
7 **Saturday, January 11, 2025**

8 On Friday, January 11, at approximately 0800 hours, O&C team members
9 ascended the spur ridge to the GOA. Due to the GOA's location, the O&C team wanted
10 a clear reference description of each Middle Towers location. This was an important
11 detail because the towers are frequently referenced during interviews, on video, and in
12 photographs. With tower references from the [REDACTED] video, MILLOY and I spent time
13 examining the towers for individual reference names, locations, and order on the spur
14 ridge. GILBERT, WALLACE, and GREEN escorted Electrical Engineer [REDACTED], and
15 CAL FIRE LiDAR team consisting of Nick LABEDZKI, David KAROLY, and Nicholas
16 HANCOCK to the General Origin Area (GOA). The Lidar team documented the
17 investigation scene (see attachment #10.20).

18 The Middle Towers are positioned on a spur ridge that runs northeast to
19 southwest. Tower #1 appears to be the tallest and is situated southwest of Tower #2.
20 There are three levels of conductors on each side of Tower #1. There are six cross
21 arms, and each cross arm has two conductors on it. There are a total of twelve
22 conductors on the tower. There is a small sign on the top of the tower with the number
23 "6". The tower has [REDACTED] and "220KV" printed on a yellow sticker
24 on the leg of the tower. A guard or shield line is at the top of the tower, and a small
25 coax line is wrapped around it. The tower body at the base forms a square.

26 Tower # 2, the second tallest tower is located northeast of Tower #1. There are
27 three levels of conductors on each side of the tower. There are six cross arms, and
28 each cross arm has two conductors on it. There is a total of 12 conductors on the
29 tower. The tower has a sign affixed to it with the words [REDACTED] on the
30 leg of the tower. There is a guard or shield line at the top of the tower. The tower body

1 forms a square at the base.

2 Tower #3 is the shortest tower and is located north of Tower #2. Tower #3 is
3 rectangular with three conductors. The conductors are only on the northwest side of the
4 tower and do not continue to the southeast. The leads appear to ground the conductor
5 to the tower's steel frame. There is a guard or shield line at the top of the tower.

6 With knowledge of the location of [REDACTED]'s home and the area where he had
7 mounted his surveillance camera, which provided video of the fire, I was able to take a
8 position on the spur ridge between Tower #1 and Tower #2. I was facing [REDACTED]
9 between the two towers, looking through the triangular base construction of Tower #1. I
10 recognized the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and used them as a
11 reference point to locate his home. From this point, I had a clear view of [REDACTED]'s home
12 and the area of his fascia board where the camera was mounted. I took photos of
13 [REDACTED]'s home from this point of view, looking through Tower #1.

14 MILLOY and I decided to descend the spur ridge to the Coyote Canyon Trail at
15 approximately 1045 hours. MILLOY would hike the draw east of the spur ridge, and I
16 would hike the draw to the west, known as Coyote Canyon. I would photograph the
17 three advancing runs down the western side of the spur ridge below the towers. I
18 observed a steep, sandy, eroded slope looking east from the north end of Coyote
19 Canyon directly below the towers. I observed lateral indicators from the towers down
20 into the canyon as I traveled back to the Coyote Canyon trail sign. I observed primarily
21 advancing indicators as I approached the other two runs. This area is extremely steep;
22 the soil was eroded and sandy. I observed advancing indicators in this area. This
23 indicated that fire was advancing to the west.

24
25 **NIGHT BRIEFING January 11, 2025**

26 Interview and Intelligence Team:

27 The I&I team continued searching for witnesses and contacted residents of Eaton
28 Canyon and Kinneloa Mesa. The following is a summary of the interviews conducted
29 with witnesses and a casual contact conversation with an SCE employee on January
30 11th, 2025.

1 On January 11, CAL FIRE Investigator Charlie ELDER contacted the Los
2 Angeles County Sheriff Altadena substation to locate 911 recordings and interview the
3 first on-scene deputy. Deputy [REDACTED] was identified as one of the first
4 on-scene deputies.

5
6 [REDACTED] interview conducted by ELDER

7 [REDACTED] stated on January 7, 2025, that he was working patrol. At
8 approximately 1815 hours, he was dispatched to a 911 call about a house fire at [REDACTED]
9 Grand Oaks Ave. When he arrived on the scene, there was no fire at this location, but
10 he saw a fire in the hills east of the address. [REDACTED] said the fire was small and
11 was under the power line towers. [REDACTED] then contacted dispatch and drove to a
12 location for a better vantage point to see the fire. His reference point was [REDACTED] Canyon
13 Close Road, Pasadena, CA. [REDACTED] exited his vehicle and took photographs of
14 the fire. [REDACTED] said he saw the fire in the hills east of his location. The fire was
15 small and was under the electrical towers. (see [REDACTED] interview ELDER
16 attachment #10.6).

17 On January 11, 2025, HOWERTON was in the parking lot of the Eaton Canyon
18 Trail Head. A white pickup truck with SCE markings drove up, and the driver spoke with
19 security. The vehicle's driver identified himself as [REDACTED] and later provided a
20 business card. [REDACTED] said he was in the area because tomorrow, Sunday,
21 January 12, the CEO and Senior Vice President of SCE wanted a tour of Eaton Canyon.
22 [REDACTED] continued to share his opinion and what he believed the public's opinion
23 was regarding these "tragic events." (see [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON
24 attachment #10.11).

25
26 [REDACTED] Interview conducted by HOWERTON

27 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who lives at [REDACTED] Clarmeya Lane, Pasadena CA.
28 She said the electricity went out approximately one hour prior to the fire, and she was
29 notified by her neighbor, [REDACTED], about the fire. [REDACTED] went to her backyard to
30 observe the fire and take photographs. (see [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON

1 attachment #10.11).

2
3 Interview conducted by HOWERTON

4 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED] who lives at [REDACTED] Clarmeya Lane, Pasadena CA.
5 [REDACTED] said the power went out at his home at approximately 1500 hours. [REDACTED] was
6 notified of the fire by his neighbor, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went out to the backyard to
7 observe the fire. [REDACTED] said the wind was "ridiculous". [REDACTED] said the wind was
8 blowing at 60 to 80 mph and coming from the northeast. [REDACTED] said the fire was small
9 and located to the right of the lower electrical tower. [REDACTED] provided photographs and
10 video of the fire. (see [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON attachment #10.11).

11
12 Interview conducted by HOWERTON

13 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who lives at [REDACTED] Larmona Drive, Pasadena,
14 CA., was at home when the electricity went out at approximately 1600 hours. [REDACTED]
15 went outside and sat in her car to charge her cell phone. While in her vehicle, [REDACTED]
16 looked up and observed "one structure on fire," which she believed to be a home.
17 (see [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON attachment #10.11).

18
19 follow-up Interview conducted by HOWERTON

20 On January 11, 2025, [REDACTED] provided a second interview. The second
21 interview was conducted at her place of residence. [REDACTED] thought it would be
22 beneficial to be at home while explaining what she witnessed (see [REDACTED]
23 interview HOWERTON attachment #10.11).

24
25 **Sunday, January 12, 2025**

26 The O&C team continued to work with Electrical Engineers and Lidar team in the
27 GOA. The O&C Team had a notable event with an SCE Helicopter later summarized in
28 this report.

29 WALLACE and GILBERT escorted Electrical Engineer [REDACTED] to the GOA.
30 GREEN escorted [REDACTED] to the upper and lower towers of the GOA. During the

1 investigation WALLACE located a beaded metallic-like substance in the GOA on the
2 interior frame in the southwest corner of Tower 3. The beaded metallic-like substance
3 was located on the interior frame of the tower near the attached grounding cable. The
4 area was photographed, and several beaded metallic-like substances were placed in a
5 clear plastic container marked as evidence Item # 2. The item was secured and stored
6 in a locked compartment of WALLACE's department vehicle. The item was later
7 transferred to KIRKHART on January 15th, 2025.

8 While in the Eaton Canyon Nature parking lot, GILBERT observed a helicopter,
9 which he believed was associated with SCE, flying in close proximity to the towers and
10 conductors they were investigating. WALLACE and GILBERT photographed the event
11 and pulled up Flightradar24 data (see WALLACE photos 1 & 2 SCE Helicopter
12 attachment # 10.13)

13 14 **Night Briefing January 12, 2025**

15 The I&I Team continued to identify people who may have information as
16 witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the investigation. The
17 following is a summary of the interviews conducted on January 12, 2025.

18 Interview conducted by KIRKHART.

19 On January 7, 2025, [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Kinclair Drive,
20 Pasadena, CA, was at home when the power was out in her residence. [REDACTED]
21 saw the light from the fire while sitting in her living room. The fire was easily visible
22 because it was in a very dark area, and the power was out. [REDACTED] went to her
23 bedroom and took two short videos of the fire below the power line towers, known to the
24 I&I Team as Towers 1, 2, and 3. [REDACTED] then went to her garage to get her car
25 and evacuated. While in the garage, she took two more videos of the fire under the
26 electrical towers. (see [REDACTED] interview KIRKHART attachment #10.7).

1 [REDACTED] follow-up Interview conducted by investigator ELDER.

2 On January 12, 2025, [REDACTED] met with an I&I team member at [REDACTED]
3 Canyon Close Road, where [REDACTED] photographed the fire. [REDACTED] pointed
4 out and identified Tower 3 as the one he saw fire on the ground. [REDACTED] stood in
5 the driveway of the residence, facing east towards the hills. The I&I Team member took
6 a photograph in the same area during daylight for comparison (see Herman
7 [REDACTED] interview ELDER attachment #10.6).

8 On January 12, 2025, a I&I Team member reviewed copies of the 911 calls from
9 the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Only one of the callers left his name and
10 phone number. The caller identified himself as [REDACTED]. the I&I Team
11 member conducted a records check of the phone number and located the address of
12 [REDACTED] North Roosevelt, Altadena, CA. An attempt was made to contact [REDACTED], but no
13 one was at the residence. A business card was left. (see 911 calls attachment 10.12)

14
15 **Monday January 13, 2025**

16 On Monday, January 13, 2025, at approximately 1030 hours, GREEN met with
17 the Lidar team, and CAL FIRE Nevada Yuba Placer Fire Captain JAMES MICHELS.
18 GREEN was tasked with capturing videos and photos of Tower 1 (Mile 6 Tower 1),
19 Tower 2 (Mile 24 Tower 3), and Tower 3 (Mile 16 Tower 1). As the Drone Pilots flew the
20 mission, GREEN directed them on what photos and videos they wanted. The photos
21 and videos were later downloaded and uploaded to Axon.

22 On Monday, January 13, 2025, [REDACTED] and a associate from the California
23 Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) were escorted by WALLCE and GILBERT to the
24 GOA to examine the scene.

25 WALLACE and GILBERT processed the GOA to search with magnets and metal
26 detectors. A plan was developed to search first with magnets, followed by a second
27 search with metal detectors.

28 The plan involved searching the area of the flat portion of the ridge, along and
29 underneath the towers, from southwest to northeast, followed by a search of the slope
30 to the southeast of the towers. The slope search to the southeast of the towers was

1 conducted up to an area along the slope just before the steep drop-off, where
2 investigators felt it was safe to work. The search was initially conducted using magnets
3 and then followed up with a metal detector.

4 A small aluminum-colored item that was not attracted to the magnet was
5 observed on the slope southeast of the towers. This item was marked with a green
6 colored flag for later collection.

7
8 **Night Briefing January 13, 2025**

9 The I&I Team continued to identify people who may have information as
10 witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the investigation. The
11 following is a summary of today's interviews and investigative activities.

12 On Monday, January 13, 2025, HOWERTON returned to the location of the [REDACTED]
13 interview at approximately 1040 hours. The area had better visibility due to the onshore
14 flow and less smoke. HOWERTON moved around within the area. [REDACTED] had said she
15 sat in her vehicle. He was now able to observe Tower #2 and Tower #3. HOWERTON
16 took photographs from the area and uploaded them into Axon.
17 (see attachment #10.11 HOWERTON Photo #21).

18 HOWERTON then copied the photograph and marked Tower #3 with a green
19 circle. Photos were uploaded into Axon (see attachment #10.11 HOWERTON Photo
20 #22).

21 On Monday, January 13, 2025, at approximately 1050 hours, HOWERTON
22 arrived at a green water tank near Kinclair Drive and Crystal Lane in the Kinneloa Mesa.
23 This was the same water tank discussed in the [REDACTED] interview. This is a high
24 point in the area, having a direct view of the fires GOA. Parked on the service road next
25 to the water tank were two white Jeep vehicles with SCE markings and California
26 license plates [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (see attachment #10.11 HOWERTON photo #23
27 through photo #25). Standing alongside the roadway were two male adults wearing
28 yellow safety shirts, whom HOWERTON assumed to be SCE employees. One of the
29 vehicles left at approximately 1108 hours while the other stayed. At approximately 1141
30 hours, the vehicle returned and provided food. HOWERTON stayed in the area until

1 both SCE vehicles left at approximately 1715 hours. This was approximately the same
2 time the Eaton Fire O&C Team finished their work within the GOA for the day. For
3 several hours, HOWERTON was in the area with the SCE employees. HOWERTON
4 never observed them performing any work on SCE equipment. Most of the time, both
5 stayed on the roadside overlooking the GOA. They also occasionally used binoculars to
6 view in the direction of the GOA.

7 On Monday, January 13, 2025, Deputy [REDACTED] of the Los Angeles
8 County Sheriff's Department Parks Bureau was contacted by the I&I Team member
9 based on the [REDACTED] interview and asked to identify any individuals or PEH who
10 camped in Eaton Canyon. [REDACTED] had only one reference to PEH; his name was
11 "[REDACTED]", and he was removed from the park approximately one year ago. When
12 [REDACTED] left Eaton Canyon prior to the start of the fire on January 7, 2025 he was
13 confident that the gates to the parking lot were shut, not allowing access by vehicles.
14 [REDACTED] referred the I&I Team to Deputy [REDACTED], who had primary
15 responsibility for Eaton Canyon. [REDACTED] identified one individual who was removed
16 from the park for camping. A criminal background history check revealed no criminal
17 findings for this person. No further information or location was available for the person
18 identified. (See [REDACTED] interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9).

19
20 [REDACTED] interview conducted by KIRKHART

21 On Monday, January 13, 2025, [REDACTED], a Los Angeles County Parks
22 employee, was interviewed by phone. [REDACTED] has worked in Eaton Canyon Park since
23 April 2024, and [REDACTED] was not familiar with any transient activities deep into the wash
24 area. [REDACTED] is familiar with graffiti and vandalism that takes place within the lower
25 park area. [REDACTED] referred the I&I Team to speak with [REDACTED]. (see
26 [REDACTED] interview KIRKHART attachment #10.7)

27
28 ROGERS information to SCHROEDER

29 On Monday, January 13, 2025, CAL FIRE Deputy Chief Tim ROGERS notified the I&I
30 team that a report of a fire occurred in Eaton Canyon involving the California Highway

1 Patrol (CHP) and an alleged suspect leaving the area. The I&I Team contacted the
2 CHP Southern Division Communication Center and obtained the call logs and audio
3 from the event. After speaking with the officers and the Supervisor, no subject was
4 seen leaving the area. The area was identified as a smoldering patch of brush along
5 the fire's perimeter. There was no evidence on the scene to indicate an intentionally set
6 fire.

7
8 **Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

9 On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at approximately 1145 hours, WALLACE
10 observed two individuals climbing up the hill toward the towers under which the O&C
11 Team was working. The two individuals were contacted and identified as reporters from
12 The New York Times. Both individuals left without incident. WALLACE and GILBERT
13 continued the investigative work at the GOA using magnets and metal detectors. An
14 additional small metallic item was located on the slope to the southeast of the tower.
15 The metallic item was also marked with a green flag. The identified items were collected
16 at approximately 1359 hours. See the sketch uploaded to Axon for details. The items
17 were later transferred to KIRKHART to be secured in the San Bernardino Unit evidence
18 locker.

19 SCE helicopter incursion

20 At approximately 1500 hours, a helicopter bearing the identifier [REDACTED], known
21 to be operated by SCE, hovered over the scene at a relatively low altitude while the
22 O&C Team examined the scene below Tower #1. The helicopter was flying at such a
23 low altitude that WALLACE and GILBERT had to stand beside each other and speak
24 loudly to communicate. Both O&C Team members wore blue pants, yellow Nomex
25 jackets, and white helmets. Photographs of the tail number [REDACTED] and a screenshot
26 of the FlightRadar24 webpage were taken to further identify the helicopter. A safety
27 communication report was filed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
28 regarding the incident.

Night Briefing January 14, 2025

The I&I Team continued to identify and follow up with individuals who may have information as witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the investigation. The following is a summary of today's interviews and investigative activities.

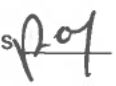
On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the early afternoon, HOWERTON was driving around the south end of Eaton Canyon, searching for video surveillance footage that captured the ignition of the Eaton Fire. HOWERTON arrived at [REDACTED] Paloma Street in the City of Pasadena. The address is a United States Marine Corps facility. HOWERTON observed a north-facing camera that could have a distant view of the GOA. The staff showed HOWERTON the view from the camera but did not know how to utilize the system to view or get a copy of the footage during the start time of the Eaton Fire. A business card was left with them. (see SCHROEDER Marine facility supplemental report attachment #10.8).

[REDACTED] interview conducted by HOWERTON

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, [REDACTED] was housed in a temporary City of Pasadena residence as she was under evacuation orders. [REDACTED] said she was in bed when she noticed a glow behind the curtains. [REDACTED] got up and opened the curtains; she observed a small fire near the southeast corner of an unknown electrical tower. [REDACTED] also observed a police vehicle next to the tower; she described the vehicle as a black and white small SUV. [REDACTED] did not know how many electrical towers were in the vicinity of the fire. [REDACTED] also provided photographs. (see [REDACTED] interview HOWERTON attachment #10.11)

[REDACTED] interview conducted by KIRKHART

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, [REDACTED] was interviewed over the phone. [REDACTED] was only familiar with one PEH who had lived within Eaton Canyon for a few weeks. [REDACTED] believes the PEH was having campfires to cook because he would find burned soup cans in the bottom of the trash cans. The longitude and



latitude were taken from satellite imagery (see [REDACTED] Photo 001). (see [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] interview KIRKHART attachment #10.7).

The [REDACTED] interview conducted by RAMIREZ

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, [REDACTED] contacted the Los Angeles County Arson Fire Investigative Unit via cell phone. [REDACTED] said he lived in the wash of Eaton Canyon and had called 911 with his cell phone on January 7th at approximately 1821 to report the brush fire.

(see [REDACTED] interview RAMIREZ attachment #10.9).

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The O&C Team continued working with the Drone Pilots at the GOA. The I&I Team continued to identify and follow up with individuals who may have information as witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the investigation. A

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at approximately 1000 hours, GREEN met with CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Scott ECKMAN. GREEN was tasked with capturing Drone photos of Tower #1 and Tower #2. ECKMAN flew the missions, GREEN directed ECKMAN to what photos he wanted. The photos were downloaded and later uploaded to Axon.

[REDACTED] interview conducted by KIRKHART

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, [REDACTED] residing at [REDACTED] Outpost Drive, Pasadena, CA, was interviewed by phone. [REDACTED] was interviewed because he was observed in a local news report, where he stated that his mother had seen a spark and the ground on fire under power line towers behind their home.

[REDACTED] noted that his mother called and told him she had seen a spark and a

1 small fire under the power line towers. [REDACTED] was asked what his mother had
2 meant when she said a spark, and he said she was talking about the fire.
3 (see [REDACTED] interview KIRKHART attachment #10.7).

4 On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, HOWERTON and SCHROEDER drove to the
5 United States Marine Field Medical Facility at [REDACTED] Palomar St, Pasadena, CA, to
6 inquire about surveillance footage of the Eaton Fire. Within the USMC's chain of
7 command, a request was made for clearance to share the video with an agency outside
8 the Department of Defense (DOD). Permission was granted, and the video was
9 provided to the I&I Team.

10 On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, a night briefing was held with representatives
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] ROGERS led the briefing, and
13 HAWKINS, GILBERT, and I attended. [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]

20
21 **Thursday, January 16, 2025**

22 The O&C Team released the investigation scene in Eaton Canyon. The following
23 is a summary of today's interviews and investigative activities. The I&I Team continued
24 to identify and follow up with individuals who may have information as witnesses or
25 possess video and photographic evidence related to the investigation.

26 On Thursday, January 16, 2025, at approximately 0900 hours, GILBERT and
27 WALLACE met with [REDACTED] Security at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center parking lot to
28 release them from scene security. The crime scene flagging was removed, allowing the
29 scene to be accessed for routine purposes.
30

1 On Thursday, January 16, 2025, at approximately 1040 hours, evidence item #1,
2 a 64 GB ScanDisk Ultra Flair Flash Drive, was transferred to SCHROEDER.
3 SCHROEDER then copied the contents of evidence #1 to a new SD card for backup
4 purposes. Evidence #1 was placed back into its envelope and resealed with evidence
5 tape.

6 On Thursday, January 16, 2025, at approximately 1600 hours, SCHROEDER
7 was tasked with dropping evidence item #1 to the Orange County Regional Computer
8 Forensic Lab located at the Ontario Police Department. At approximately 1641 hours,
9 the evidence was transferred, and a property receipt was provided.

10 On Thursday, January 16, 2025, a Lightning Discharge Map from Predictive
11 Services was provided, showing no lightning strikes within Los Angeles County from
12 December 17, 2024, to January 8, 2025. (see attachment lighting map attachment
13 #10.17)

14
15 **Friday, January 17, 2025**

16 The I&I Team continued to identify and follow up with individuals who may have
17 information as witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the
18 investigation, and this also included uploading data about the investigation. The O&C
19 Team worked on documenting the origin and cause, developing the narrative, and
20 attended the SCE/CPUC GOA orientation.

21 On Friday, January 17, 2025, WALLACE and GILBERT met with members of
22 CPUC and SCE at the Eaton Canyon Nature Reserve Center parking lot. SCE
23 conducted a safety briefing and reviewed the plan for a pre-planned walk through of the
24 fire origin area. SCE mentioned the hazards of climbing to the site. WALLACE
25 received information from [REDACTED] a Senior Patrolman with SCE. WALLACE
26 sketched the proper tower names and identifiers. (see WALLACE sketch attachment
27 #10.13).

Saturday, January 18, 2025

The I&I Team continued to identify and follow up with individuals who may have information as witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the investigation, and this also included uploading data pertaining to the investigation. The O&C Team worked on documenting the origin and cause, and developing the narrative. The following is a summary of today's investigative activities.

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, at approximately 0200 hours, OSFM investigator SCHROEDER received the download link from Orange County Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory for the requested data. The data was downloaded, labeled, and uploaded to evidence.com.

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, a social media post featured an interaction between a news reporter and an SCE crew. The interaction took place at the water tanks directly to the east and overlooking the fire origin area.
(see Social Media Post attachment #10.18)

interview conducted by ELDER

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Harding Avenue, Altadena, CA, was at her residence with [REDACTED] on January 7, 2025, at approximately 1800 hours. [REDACTED] said her power was out for approximately one hour, and she was concerned about her elderly neighbor. [REDACTED] walked outside and noticed a fire under the power line towers. [REDACTED] pointed towards Tower #3. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to look at the fire with her; it was on the ground near the west legs of Tower #3. [REDACTED] did not see the fire start and did not see anyone near the towers.
(see [REDACTED] interview ELDER attachment #10.6).

1 [REDACTED] interview conducted by ELDER

2 On Saturday, January 18, 2025, [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Harding
3 Avenue, Altadena, CA, was at his residence with [REDACTED] on January 7, 2026, at
4 approximately 1800 hours. [REDACTED] said the power had been out for approximately
5 1.5 hours. [REDACTED] walked outside and saw [REDACTED] eastbound. [REDACTED] looked
6 in the same direction and saw fire under the powerline towers to the east. The fire was
7 on the ground near the west leg. [REDACTED] identified this tower as Tower #3.
8 [REDACTED] did not know how the fire started and did not see anyone around the towers.
9 (see [REDACTED] interview ELDER attachment #10.6).

10
11 **Sunday, January 19, 2025**

12 The I&I Team continued to identify and follow up with individuals who may have
13 information as witnesses or possess video and photographic evidence related to the
14 investigation, including uploading data pertinent to the investigation and developing
15 narratives. The O&C Team worked on documenting the origin and cause and
16 developing our narratives. The following is a summary of today's investigative
17 activities.

18
19 [REDACTED] interview conducted by SCHROEDER

20 On Sunday, January 19, 2025, LACoFD Senior Pilot [REDACTED] was flying
21 LACoFD Copter 17 at the Eaton Fire. [REDACTED] stated in his interview that Copter 17
22 arrived on the scene early in the incident. When Copter 17 got overhead, [REDACTED] saw
23 the fire at or just below the wires at the base of the towers. [REDACTED] said the first spot
24 fire he believed was northwest, towards the Kinneloa neighborhood. [REDACTED] noted
25 that while he was flying, he was experiencing 70-90 knot winds (80-100 mph), and
26 during this time, the helicopter's ground speed was 11 knots (12 mph) backward.
27 [REDACTED] said he was flying at about 2500 feet (see [REDACTED] interview SCHROEDER
28 attachment #10.8).

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

██████████ contact with GILBERT

On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, ██████████ known as a private investigator contacted GILBERT. ██████████ explained how he was investigating the Eaton Fire and had a video of the fire that the investigation team did not have. The video in possession of ██████████ is from ██████████ Kinclair Drive, Altadena, CA. ██████████ described the video as three separate videos taken at 1814, 1818, and 1819 hours. ██████████ also discussed observations he had made with binoculars and the use of a Drone. ██████████ said he would share the video in exchange and that his attorneys were in contact with CAL FIRE attorneys. The investigative team learned that we already possessed the video that ██████████ had. (see ██████████ contact GILBERT attachment #10.15).

Friday, January 31, 2025

On Friday, January 31, 2025, I collected a video from ██████████ gas station security camera system located at ██████████ N Altadena Drive, Pasadena CA 91107. The video recording is from January 7, 2025. The flash drive was placed into evidence as item #7.

Tuesday, February 20, 2025

SCE facilitated tours of the Eagle Rock and Gould substations for CPUC, LACoFD, and CAL FIRE. SCE also conducted a tour on the same day of the transmission towers located at ██████████, near ██████████ in La Canade Flintridge.

I observed three SCE Transmission towers at this location. Tower ██████████, the last tower of the out-of-service Mesa-Sylmar circuits, is the tower of interest.

MILLOY, GREEN, and I observed the center conductor dangling free from the bridge section of the tower; it appeared that the remaining two conductors were not bolted down to the tower bridge. SCE photo evidence later revealed that one conductor was hanging loosely from a bolt, and the other conductor was wedged into a corner section of the bridge, and had birdcaging on the end holding it in place on the bridge of

1 the tower.

2 CPUC attendees, the SCE lineman, and an SCE lawyer discussed the
3 maintenance of Tower [REDACTED] and whether the abnormalities seen with the conductors
4 were new. The Lineman said that they were not new and were like this last year; he was
5 also unsure why they were not corrected when it was inspected.

6
7 **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

8 CAL FIRE transferred Eaton Fire evidence # 1,1.1,2,3,4,5,and 6 to LACoFD, and
9 placed in evidence storage. [REDACTED] video evidence #7 was placed in LACoFD Arson
10 evidence storage. LACoFD Arson also received an [REDACTED] from
11 SCE containing photos and videos collected from the SCE helicopter, as well as other
12 SCE employees. This device was added into evidence storage as evidence #8.

13
14 **Wednesday April 9, 2025**

15 Yartz and LACoFD Drone operators conducted a surveillance flight to capture
16 video of the SCE conductors over the Eaton Canyon Falls area, looking for any
17 evidence of arcing. A copy of the video and photos were given to electrical engineer
18 [REDACTED] for analysis.

19
20 **Continued Investigation**

21 Over the next few months, the Eaton Investigative team continued the
22 investigative process. SCE was provided with additional data requests, information
23 requests, and updates for preserving evidence.

24 Eaton Fire SCE Field Equipment Protocols were negotiated. The protocol is
25 intended to provide all investigative parties to the Eaton Fire with equal access and
26 ability to inspect, test, and preserve Tower [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and the equipment directly
27 attached to them. The evidence removal process started on April 21, 2025, and is
28 ongoing.

1 The removed equipment has been preserved and stored at the [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] located at [REDACTED], Azusa, CA 91702.

3 Data and Information requests were sent to SCE on January 20, 2025, and an
4 additional request on January 31, 2025; the investigation team has yet to receive the
5 requested data.

6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 The evidence collected will be examined at [REDACTED] starting June 16, 2025.

11 Cause Consideration

12 Efforts were conducted to determine the specific action, or inaction, that caused
13 the competent ignition source and the first fuels to come together, resulting in the fire
14 event. The fire cause scenarios considered included: Lightning, campfire, incendiary
15 act/device (arson), and electrical lines.

17 Eliminated Ignition Source

18 Lighting is a discharged static electricity associated with thunderstorm activity. I
19 reviewed the Predictive Services Lighting Discharge Map for December 7, 2024,
20 through January 8, 2025. I didn't observe any lighting activity in the GOA of the Eaton
21 Fire. Lighting was considered as a possible cause of the Eaton fire and excluded. (see
22 attachment # 10.17)

23 Campfires are used for warmth, cooking, light religious or ceremonial purposes. I
24 didn't locate any signs of recent human activity or recently used campfire within the
25 GOA. The Eaton Canyon trailhead was closed on the day of the Eaton Fire and the
26 area is for day use only, with no camping. No vehicle roads led to the GOA. MILLOY
27 and I hiked over to Mesa and observed a rock ring, whole bananas, food in a pot,
28 various cooking pots, metal cans, and fiberglass poles in the shape of a square, which
29 suggested to us that a tent had been burned. A second rock ring and the remnants of
30 fiberglass poles were located approximately ten yards west of the first, and a third area

1 is approximately ten yards southwest of the second. We also observed remnants of
2 fiberglass poles here. Based on the contents observed at the sites, it appears that it
3 was likely a unauthorized campsite, the campsite was located approximately 1,200 feet
4 southwest of the GOA. Campfire was considered as a possible cause and excluded.

5 Arson or Incendiary, the intentional and wrongful burning of someone else's
6 property, deliberately and unlawfully set fire to property. The GOA was located high on
7 a spur ridge that is unaccusable by a motor vehicle, I did not see any indicators of
8 recent human activity or did I find any ignition devices commonly used by Arsonist. A
9 report of a person with a flashlight leaving the Eaton Wash area at the time of the fire
10 was investigated and did not yield any information. Also, the location the person was
11 seen was more than a half mile from the GOA. Arson/Incendiary as a possible cause
12 was excluded.

13 14 **Fuel Source**

15 Examinations were conducted to identify the pre-available fuels within the GOA.
16 During this process, fuels were located. Specifically, within the GOA, several fuels were
17 identified. These fuels included dried grasses, dead and dried vegetation, and small
18 brush vegetation consistent with the Southern California Chaparral Bloom.

19 20 **OPINIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

21 The totality of the information obtained during this investigation, including witness
22 statements, fire patterns, scene analysis, video/picture evidence and SCE data, leads
23 me to the conclusion that the cause of this fire is ELECTRICAL in nature, caused by an
24 electrical event that occurred at approximately 1811 hours within a grouping of three
25 SCE Transmission Towers. The receptive fuel bed below ignited when the glowing
26 material fell from the electrical event on the SCE transmission towers. Within seconds,
27 the fuel bed ignited and spread rapidly due to the extreme fire weather, aided by the
28 steep topography.

29 This group of SCE Transmission Towers is referred to in this report as Tower #1,
30 which supports the Mesa-Vincent #2 and Eagle Rock-Mesa circuits, Tower #2, which

1 supports the Mesa-Vincent #1 and Goodrich-Guild circuits, and Tower #3, which
2 supports the out-of-service (OS) Mesa-Sylmar circuits.

3 During this investigation, SCE has reported no line faults on the lines until more
4 than one hour after the reported start time of the fire. However, SCE during the
5 preliminary review of electrical data from January 7, 2025, discovered electrical data
6 that indicates a fault was detected at approximately 1811 hours on the Eagle Rock –
7 Gould 220 KV line, which connects the Gould substation in La Canada Flintridge to the
8 Eagle Rock substation in Eagle Rock (see attachment 10.19)

9 The SCE protection device detected the fault and opened to isolate it. An earlier
10 attempt to disable the automatic reclosing function was unsuccessful; therefore, it
11 automatically tested the line to determine if the fault had cleared. As the fault had not
12 cleared, that line was locked out and was not reenergized.

13 This Fault detected is of interest to the Investigation Team and needs to be
14 investigated further (see SCE data request attachment #10.19) because the fault
15 occurred at approximately the same time as the electrical event occurred that is
16 documented in video evidence obtained by the Investigation Team.

17 The Eaton Fire was a highly destructive wildfire in Los Angeles County that
18 claimed the lives of eighteen people, destroyed more than nine thousand buildings, and
19 burned an area of over fourteen thousand acres. It is the fifth-deadliest and second-
20 most-destructive wildfire in California history.

21 The Eaton Fire investigation was unique primarily due to the magnitude and
22 complexity of the incident.

23 The Investigation Team utilized a problem-solving framework to conduct a
24 systematic wildfire investigation, which resulted in the determination of the Eaton Fire's
25 ignition area, cause, and ignition sequence.

26 When the Eaton Fire ignited, Southern California was experiencing extreme fire
27 behavior. The National Weather Service (NWS) predicted a "life-threatening" windstorm,
28 and the Santa Ana wind gusts were forecasted to reach speeds of 60-80 MPH, with
29 some peak gusts anticipated to reach 90 MPH in mountainous areas. The approximate
30 wind speeds at the time of the fire in the area of the transmission towers were between

1 35 and 65 mph, with gusts up to 80 mph.

2 The wind direction was primarily from the north and northeast, and as a result,
3 the fire advanced to the South and Southwest across Eaton Wash and into Altadena.
4 The fire directly impacted the residential homes along Eaton Canyon.

5 Ember cast was reported to have been carried for more than two miles by the
6 Santa Ana winds. As a result, multiple structures caught fire, this exacerbating the fire
7 weather effects, creating a conflagration that reached the downtown areas of Altadena.

8 Currently, the Investigation Team electrical engineers are waiting to view
9 physical evidence of SCE infrastructure and are still waiting to receive the SCE data
10 that was requested on January 20, 2025. The Investigation Team has not received any
11 of the requested data from SCE currently.

12 An item of interest still being investigated is the electrical fault detected by SCE,
13 the time of which was approximated with the electrical event captured by security video.
14 SCE has reported no line faults on the lines until more than one hour after the reported
15 start time of the fire. However, SCE during the preliminary review of electrical data from
16 January 7, 2025, discovered electrical data that indicates a fault was detected at
17 approximately 1811 hours on the Eagle Rock – Gould 220 KV line approximately five
18 miles from the Eaton Fire origin, which connects the Gould substation in La Canada
19 Flintridge to the Eagle Rock substation in Eagle Rock.

20 The SCE protection device detected the fault and opened to isolate it. An earlier
21 attempt to disable the automatic reclosing function was unsuccessful; therefore, it
22 automatically tested the line to determine if the fault had cleared. As the fault had not
23 cleared, that line was locked out and was not reenergized.

24 Supplemental reports will be added to the investigation narrative as new information is
25 discovered.

26
27 Signature

Date

28 Rick YARTZ, Badge [REDACTED]

29 Captain / Investigator
30

10 – ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 - DINS Report
- 2 - CAL FIRE AXON report and digital evidence
- 3 - Weather Data
- 4 - APN Light Box Map
- 5 - Milloy's photos, interviews and report
- 6 - Elder photos, interviews and report
- 7 - Kirkhart photos, interviews and report
- 8 - Schroeder photos, Interviews and report
- 9 - Ramirez photos, interviews and report
- 10 - Yartz reports and photos
- 11 - Howerton photos, interview and report
- 12 - 911 Calls
- 13 - Wallace photos, and report
- 14 - Green drone footage and report
- 15 - Gilbert photos, interviews and report
- 16 - Element Security
- 17 - Lightning Map
- 18 - News reporter video
- 19 - Southern California Edison Data
- 20 - LiDAR Data
- 21 - State of Emergency Proclamation
- 22 - Alert Wildfire Camera Data
- 23 -
- 24 -
- 25 -