



## East Contra Costa Fire Protection District News Release

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### **PG&E EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED AS CAUSE OF BETHEL ISLAND AND OAKLEY FIRES**

**Brentwood, CA** — East Contra Costa Fire Protection District was dispatched early Sunday morning on October 27, 2019 at 3:08 A.M. for a reported vegetation fire on the 3,000 block of Gateway Road in Bethel Island. Upon arrival, a rapidly spreading wind driven fire covering the size of a football field was observed and threatening the new Delta Coves housing development. Upon conclusion of the fire investigation, the area of origin was identified under PG&E power lines with a video of the transformer casting sparks to the vegetation below.

While bringing this fire under control, a second fire was reported in the area of Bethel Island Road and East Cypress Road in the city of Oakley at 5:00 A.M. According to the initial reporting party and confirmed through our fire investigation, PG&E equipment again had a malfunction and cast sparks 200 yards to the South igniting vegetation. This fast moving fire caused ember casting into the Summer Lakes community forcing residents to evacuate their homes at 5:30 A.M. ECCFPD and their allied agencies were able to bring this fire under control without the loss of a single structure and a safe evacuation without any injuries to report.

“I would like to commend all of our personnel from ECCFPD, our allied fire agencies, our police agencies, and the Cities of Oakley and Brentwood and Contra Costa County that came together to fight these fires, protected our communities, and helped to restore normalcy after this unprecedented weather event with recorded wind gust up to 75 mph.” stated Fire Chief Helmick of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District.

**ABOUT THE EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:** The East Contra Costa Fire Protection District is a rural-funded fire district that protects a population of more than 120,000 across its 249 square-mile service area. The District provides firefighting personnel, emergency medical services (basic life support) and fire prevention to the residents and businesses of the cities of Brentwood and Oakley as well as the unincorporated communities of Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Byron, Marsh Creek, and Morgan Territory. **Learn more** at [www.eccfpd.org](http://www.eccfpd.org) or social media via Facebook (East Contra Costa Fire Protection District),, Instagram (@east\_contra\_costa\_fire), Twitter (@ECCFPD ) or our YouTube channel (East Contra Costa Fire Protection District).

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