



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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INVESTIGATION INTO DIXIE FIRE CONTINUES

The Butte County District Attorney's Office confirms that Cal Fire submitted the results of their investigation into the origin and cause of the Dixie Fire. This office and four other District Attorney Offices (Plumas, Lassen, Tehama and Shasta) have been working with Cal Fire investigators and specialists since the beginning of the fire. Cal Fire's report is not the end of our investigation into the Dixie Fire. A criminal investigation and review by our prosecution offices continues to determine whether PG&E bears criminal responsibility for the Dixie Fire. This investigation and review will continue for some weeks.

Our primary focus is on whether we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury that PG&E has violated Penal Code section 452. Attached is a standard California Jury Instruction on the elements necessary to prove such a violation:

To prove a defendant (person or corporation) is guilty of the crime of Unlawfully Causing a Fire, the People must prove that:

- 1. The defendant caused the burning of a structure/forest land/property; AND***
- 2. The defendant did so recklessly.***

A defendant acts recklessly when:

- 1. It is aware that its actions present a substantial and unjustifiable risk of causing a fire,***
- 2. It ignores that risk,***

AND

- 3. Ignoring the risk is a gross deviation from what a reasonable person would have done in the same situation.***

To set fire to or burn means to damage or destroy with fire either all or part of something, no matter how small the part.

A structure is any building.

Forest land means brush-covered land, cut-over land, forest, grasslands, or woods.

Property means personal property or land other than forest land.

When a decision has been reached, our District Attorney Offices will announce our decision to the public.

