

Falling trees keep Atherton Public Works crews busy after storms



Alyssa Kiely / MCE Corporation An oak tree leans on power lines on Atherton Avenue at Elena Avenue in Atherton on Tuesday. PG&E workers responded, and removed the tree, according to Atherton Public Works Director Steve Tyler. It was one of about five trees that interfered with public rights of way because of the storm. Many others fell in town as well, on private property.

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Atherton Avenue was closed for several hours on Tuesday after a large oak tree fell against some PG&E power lines, reported Atherton Public Works Director Steve Tyler.

“It was just leaning, it didn’t fall,” said Tyler. “But PG&E removed it for the homeowner.”

It was one of several trees that interrupted public rights of way recently thanks to the storms that blew through the area. There were falls (or leans) on Atherton (two), Emelie, Irving, Watkins and Almedral avenues, and Fair Oaks, Station and Greshman lanes.

Tyler said there were other tree falls in the heavily forested town on private property, that are not the province of the Public Works Department.

Tyler said that most oak trees have at least some problems with oak root fungus, and that when the trees get heavy from siphoning up a lot of rainwater, with weakened root systems, they are more susceptible to falling.



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