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Vallejo Family Files Suit Over PG&E Explosion

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A Vallejo family has filed suit in Solano County, hoping to take Pacific Gas and Electric Company to court for damages incurred when a PCB-filled transformer exploded near their home earlier this summer.

Filed on behalf of William Goins and his wife Juanita, children Aaron and Shirley, the complaint alleges PG&E is responsible for the medical costs and property loss resulting from the July 24, 1980 explosion outside of their 27 Parrott St. home.

According to the complaint, which lists only one side of the issue, Goins heard a crackling sound coming from a power pole six feet from his living room window and called a utility repairman.

When the utility worker flipped a switch, Goins contends, the transformer blew up, spraying a dark, allegedly toxic substance over the home and through an open window.

The Goins hope a judge will order PG&E to pay for their medical costs, loss of wages and property damage, along with other damages as the court sees fit.

PG&E has since started a program to replace the old transformers which contain a substance known as Polychlorylbiphenyl.

"PCB" for short, the chemical has been tenatively linked to reports of cancer and other medical problems when exposed to humans.

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