

Media Release



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Damaged pole sparks calls for burn-off caution

Essential Energy is reminding farmers to take care when burning crop stubble or conducting general burn-off activities around electrical infrastructure to avoid sparking a potentially dangerous and costly network incident.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said a recent power pole fire on a property in southern NSW had been caused by a stubble burn-off.

“Luckily, no one was injured on this occasion, however, the fire damage caused the pole to fall and resulted in an inconvenient power outage for customers and a cost to the property owner,” David said.

“A few simple steps such as identifying the location of network assets and clearing around the base of poles prior to burning off can help to minimise the risk of injury, infrastructure damage and unplanned power outages.”

Appropriate permits should always be obtained prior to burning off. Essential Energy also recommends planning stubble burn-offs for low fire danger days and staying alert to changing weather conditions.

“Ensure all fires are adequately monitored and always have ample water and firefighting equipment on hand in case a burn gets out of control,” David said.

“Power poles can smoulder for hours before catching alight, so farmers are urged to be alert to signs of smoke or ash.”

If a power pole is accidentally set alight, advise Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80** to isolate the power supply and remain at least eight metres away from fallen powerlines.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety.

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