

Media Release



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Keep crop stubble burns away from poles and wires

Essential Energy is reminding farmers to provide notice of stubble burn activities planned near the electricity network as crop preparations get underway across parts of NSW.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said it is a property owner's responsibility to ensure that stubble paddock fires are monitored and controlled, and that the appropriate permits are obtained prior to burning.

"Our workers may attend the site of a proposed burn-off to review the condition of assets such as power poles and powerlines," David said.

Essential Energy advises farmers to establish an exclusion zone (at least 3 metres) - clearing vegetation around the base of poles before burning and to conduct the activity on low fire danger days and stay alert to changing weather conditions.

"Ensure you have sufficient water and firefighting equipment at hand in case a burn gets out of control," David said.

Farmers are also reminded to check for network damage afterwards and be alert to signs of smoke or ash near power poles as they can smoulder for hours before catching alight.

"If an electrical asset is damaged by a stubble burn activity, contact Essential Energy immediately to isolate the power supply and remain at least eight metres away from fallen powerlines," David said.

Property owners can access Essential Energy's free electrical safety fact sheets and information online at essentialenergy.com.au/agribusiness.



Caption: The base of an Essential Energy power pole following a stubble burn incident on a property in regional NSW.

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