

Media Release



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Senseless network vandalism prompts reminder of electrical risks

Essential Energy has warned those involved in malicious damage or tampering to the electricity network that they are putting themselves at risk of serious injury or fatal consequences.

From July to September 2018, 27 incidents related to network vandalism occurred across Essential Energy's Northern, Southern and North Coast regions.

Head of Health, Safety and Environment, Christine Withycombe, said dangerous acts of network vandalism are illegal, compromise safety and endanger lives.

"As the operator of one of Australia's largest electricity networks, Essential Energy's priority is the safety of its customers, employees, contractors and members of the public," Christine said.

"Serious injury can occur without actually touching a powerline. Electricity can 'arc' or jump resulting in severe burns, electric shock and even death. Unplanned outages can also impact customers reliant upon power for life support equipment," she said.

"We ask the local community to report anyone acting suspiciously around the electricity network to Essential Energy on 13 20 80 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000."

Those who intentionally endanger their own lives and the lives of the public due to electricity network tampering risk prosecution.

Always stay at least eight metres away from a powerline on the ground, objects in contact with wires, or a low hanging powerline.

For further information on safety around the electricity network, visit www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety.

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Caption: Essential Energy has asked the local community to report anyone acting suspiciously around the electricity network to Essential Energy on 13 20 80 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

Essential Energy is the operator of one of Australia's largest electricity networks spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales' land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.