

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release // June 28, 2021

SAFETY ALERT: Newfoundland Power Concerned with Recent Acts of Vandalism

(St. John's, NL): Newfoundland Power is extremely concerned with the recent frequency of acts of vandalism to the province's electricity system. There have been break-ins at three of the Company's high voltage facilities over the last couple of months. Vandals illegally entered Glenwood Substation, Topsail Hydroelectric Generating Plant and Boyd's Cove Substation, causing damage to electrical equipment and stealing copper grounding wire that was connected to the high voltage electricity grid.

Sean LaCour, Vice President, Customer Operations, Newfoundland Power, warns of the seriousness and danger associated with this illegal activity. "This type of activity creates a serious safety risk for Newfoundland Power employees, contractors, the general public and the vandals themselves. It also compromises the integrity and reliability of the electricity system. I can't emphasize strongly enough how dangerous it is to illegally enter these facilities and steal copper wire connected to high voltage, energized equipment. No one's life is worth the risk. We take these types of incidents very seriously, and every incident is reported to the police for further investigation and criminal prosecution."

Entering high voltage substations to steal grounding wire, which is an important part of a substation's protection system, is extremely dangerous. Employees' lives are unnecessarily put in harm's way when they have to subsequently enter these facilities to make repairs. The copper wire has little value. In fact, copper wire at many substations has been replaced in recent years with copper clad steel which has absolutely no scrap value.

These acts of theft and vandalism can also have a direct impact on customers as lengthy outages are often the result to allow crews time to safely make repairs to the province's electricity system. The Company continues to remind the public to stay away from high voltage electrical equipment and to help put a stop to this dangerous, illegal activity by reporting any suspicious activity.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents, or any act of theft or vandalism to electrical equipment, is encouraged to contact their local Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Royal Newfoundland Constabulary detachment or Crime Stoppers. All illegal activities will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Newfoundland Power is the primary distributor of electricity on the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador. With a customer base of approximately 271,000 accounts, Newfoundland Power is committed to safety, dedicated to the highest level of customer service and delivers reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. For more information on Newfoundland Power's programs, services and community partnerships, please visit newfoundlandpower.com.

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