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Insulator-shooting vandals cause power outage

BPA offers up to \$1,000 for information

**Crime Witness Program
Bonneville Power Administration**

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BPA offers up to \$1,000 for information

EDDYVILLE, Ore. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to arrest and conviction of vandals who caused \$2,000 worth of damage to power lines. Vandals shot a string of insulators along a transmission line off of Highway 20 near Eddyville on May 20 causing a local power outage and fire.

A BPA line foreman reported the incident that occurred at approximately 2 p.m. on May 20 to the State Forestry Department. A fire started when the power line fell to the ground near Mt. Baber Road off of Highway 20. While the fire was contained to a half acre, it could have been more extensive if the incident occurred later in the dry season. Power was quickly restored by a BPA line crew, but it took them more than five hours to repair the damage to the power lines.

“Vandals shooting at insulators for fun should consider the dangers and consequences of their actions,” warned Gail Dreckman, BPA security specialist. “Downed power lines can cause fires and lethal ground voltages placing those around the structure in imminent danger.”

BPA annually spends between \$400,000 and \$500,000 to replace insulators damaged or destroyed by gun shot vandalism. These costs, including the \$2,000 repair cost of this incident, get passed on to customers and ratepayers. Above and beyond these monetary costs and inconveniences are the possible disruption of essential services -- fire departments, police and ambulance services -- that are dependent on reliable electric service.

In an effort to discourage this kind of costly, dangerous and destructive behavior, BPA is offering cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators under its neighborhood watch-style Crime Witness Program. Informants can call toll free 1-800-437-2744 and their identity will be kept confidential.

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