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Vandals of high-voltage transmission lines caught

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Three vandals who deliberately shot out insulators on a high-voltage transmission line and caused a one-hour power outage on Nov. 8 in Cascade Locks, Ore., have been caught and prosecuted.

"The vandals are minors, so we will not release their names. They have been ordered by a judge to pay BPA restitution in the amount of \$8,765," explained BPA Security Specialist Mike Berg. "Fortunately no one was injured in this incident. High-voltage electrical lines constitute a serious risk to anyone who is foolish enough to shoot at them, as these three did."

The name of the person that provided police with essential information on this case will be kept confidential, but the person will be receiving a reward and a sincere thank you from BPA. BPA's Crime Witness Program offers cash awards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators. Award amounts are on a graduated scale based on the severity of the incident and the economic losses sustained.

The Crime Witness Program was created by BPA in 1994 as a cost-effective way to involve the public in combating crimes that could potentially cause power outages. Since then, the Crime Witness Program has generated hundreds of telephone tips resulting in dozens of arrests, thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most importantly, deterrence of future crime. For example, in 1999, a total of 202 insulator units were replaced, representing an 88 percent decrease from the 1,723 units replaced in an average year prior to the institution of the Crime Witness Program. Cumulative savings since the program began in 1994 now exceed \$3 million.

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