How Crime Witness works for you
Anyone who sees or suspects crime or suspicious behavior targeting BPA property, assets or personnel can be a Crime Witness by calling the toll-free, confidential hotline. Hotline personnel will ask questions about the reported crime. This information will be used in pursuing an investigation and/or to disburse a reward. Cash rewards of up to $25,000 will be paid to Crime Witness informants providing information that leads to the arrest and conviction of persons committing the crime.

For more information about the Crime Witness program, please call the hotline.

(800) 437-2744 TOLL FREE

Call Toll Free
To report theft, vandalism, illegal dumping or suspicious activities on Bonneville Power Administration property.

Up to $25,000 reward
Damaging BPA Transmission lines and property is a crime — and it can also be extremely dangerous. BPA’s toll-free, crime informant hotline allows you to report any illegal or suspicious activity you witness against BPA’s transmission system, property or personnel.

Crime on the lines hits home

Just imagine where we would be without electricity. In our homes, that means no power for the refrigerator or lights — the things we depend on every day. At a hospital, life-saving medical equipment could be compromised. Businesses may lose valuable work time and revenue.

Bringing down high-voltage transmission lines by gunfire or other acts of vandalism is not just dangerous, it can be deadly. Downed power lines can lead to lethal ground voltages that can seriously injure or kill. They can also ignite forest or field fires. It’s not just inconvenient, it’s costly and dangerous. And, most unfortunately, it’s unnecessary.

You can help

Each year, the direct and indirect costs of theft, vandalism and illegal dumping can exceed $1 million. Direct costs are the costs to BPA to replace stolen or damaged equipment. Indirect costs are the lost revenues and the economic losses to electricity consumers due to power interruptions. These costs are ultimately passed on to you, the ratepayer.

What to report

As a Crime Witness, watch for:

- shooting at insulators, transmission lines, transmission towers or substation equipment;
- dumping any waste or material on BPA property;
- vandalizing BPA buildings and vehicles;
- theft of BPA supplies, tools or materials;
- harm or threat to BPA personnel;
- loitering or suspicious individuals or activities in and around transmission lines, towers and substations

If you see or suspect that any of these crimes has been committed or suspect that there may be a potential crime, be a Crime Witness. Help keep the lights on, deter criminal activity and reduce costs to electricity consumers by calling the toll-free Crime Witness hotline at (800) 437-2744.

Providing a reliable supply of electricity

The Bonneville Power Administration was created in 1937. It is a federal agency, under the U.S. Department of Energy, that markets wholesale electrical power and operates and markets transmission services in the Pacific Northwest. The power comes from 31 federal hydro projects, one nonfederal nuclear plant and several other small nonfederal power plants. The hydro projects and the electrical system are known as the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Today, BPA has over 15,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and nearly 250 substations covering a service area of more than 300,000 square miles in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, western Montana and small portions of Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, California and eastern Montana.

This system is the electrical “backbone” of the region, and the health of the Pacific Northwest’s economy and the welfare of the region’s 11 million citizens depend on its continued reliable operation. BPA’s customers include publicly owned and investor-owned utilities, as well as some large industries. BPA also sells or exchanges power with utilities in Canada and the western United States.

Also, with increasing concerns about terrorist attacks against critically important power and transmission facilities, you can use this same number to report suspicious activity. An alert and vigilant public is our nation’s best defense against terrorism.