

Media Release



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Burn off crop stubble with caution around powerlines

Essential Energy is warning landholders to carefully plan and monitor crop stubble burning to help avoid uncontrolled fires, power outages and damage to the electricity network.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said Essential Energy crews had attended incidents where burn-offs had got out of control, resulting in damage to poles and powerlines and a potentially costly repair bill for the landholder.

“Not only are the costs of replacing damaged power poles and lines expensive, the inconvenience to customers through the associated power outages is often avoidable,” David said.

Essential Energy recommends burning crop stubble on low fire danger days and away from power poles and ensuring ample water and firefighting equipment is on hand to extinguish the fire, if necessary.

Landholders are advised to clear vegetation and flammable material away from the base of power poles to minimise the risk of ignition.

“Remember to pile waste material well away from powerlines and poles and ensure fires are fully extinguished before leaving the site. Poles can smoulder for hours before a fire starts, so be vigilant to any signs of smoke or ash,” David said.

If a power pole does catch alight, contact Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80** to isolate supply.

For more information, call Essential Energy on **13 23 91** or visit: www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety.

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Essential Energy is the operator of Australia's largest electricity network 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.