Electric Companies Remind Customers to Dial 811

The Public Service, by definition, is a call to look after the needs of the public. For those in the electric industry, that means ensuring reliability and safety for the millions of customers served.

From Hawaii to Alaska, underground power lines and other utilities infrastructure are an essential part of the modern economy. When customers need to dig, it’s important to know where power lines are located to avoid any damage. That’s why safety is at the forefront of all electric company efforts to promote and protect the public interest. However, accidents can happen.

The theft and vandalism of power lines and underground infrastructure continue to increase, with dozens of instances reported across the country this year. Outages caused by criminal damage can last hours or even days, which can have a significant impact on communities and businesses. Stolen materials are often sold to further fund crimes.

The National Association of Railroad Passenger Companies (NARP) recently released a survey reporting a 20 percent increase in criminal activity over the past two years. Other utilities industry groups have reported upticks in criminal activity as well, including the American Public Power Association (APPA), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI).

To combat the increase in illegal activities, electric utilities are stepping up their efforts to address the problem, especially with the rise in outages related to criminal activity. EEI and the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) are working on a new initiative to combat theft and vandalism.

“Electric companies are taking a proactive approach to address the increase in criminal activity,” said Dan Brouillette, president and CEO of EEI. “We are working with our partners to address this issue and protect the public interest.”

In addition to working with NARP and NEUAC, EEI is also collaborating with other industry groups, such as NRECA and APPA, to address the problem.

“Electric companies are committed to doing everything we can to protect our customers and the public,” said Brouillette. “We are taking a comprehensive approach to address this issue and protect the public interest.”

The initiative includes a multi-faceted approach, including increased security, improved tracking and reporting of incidents, and increased community outreach.

“We are working closely with our customers and partners to address this issue and protect the public interest,” said Brouillette. “We are committed to doing everything we can to protect our customers and the public.”

The initiative is part of a broader effort by the electric utility industry to protect the public interest and ensure the reliability and safety of the nation’s electric grid.

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