

For Immediate Release

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Central Lincoln Siletz Substation Vandalized

Damage Set at \$50,000; Reward Offered

Central Lincoln P.U.D. customers in the Siletz area had no electricity for nearly an hour Wednesday afternoon after vandals aimed rocks at a power circuit breaker at a Siletz substation. It will cost some \$50,000 to repair the damage and permanently replace ruined equipment.

"This is a very serious incident, not only because of what customers in the Siletz area lost due to the outage, and what the repairs will cost our customers, but also because the vandals could have been badly hurt or killed," said Central Lincoln's general manager Paul Davies. "Electricity is crucial to Americans' lives for heating, refrigeration, hot water and so much more, but it can be very dangerous and harm people when they don't respect it. Our substations are fenced to keep people away from multi-kilovolt lines and equipment. Power lines are placed high overhead to keep them out of harm's way. It is important to stay away from electrical facilities, and to understand they are fenced for very important safety reasons."

Central Lincoln is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who vandalized the Siletz substation. Anyone having information about the vandals is asked to call Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Cameron at 265-4231.

Surveillance equipment is planned for Central Lincoln's substations.

The Central Lincoln People's Utility District is Oregon's fourth-largest electric utility, serving some 700 square miles and approximately 83,500 people in portions of Douglas, Coos, Lane, and Lincoln counties. Central Lincoln is not-for-profit, and is publicly-owned, meaning it was created by voters to serve the public.

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