

Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc. Issues Warning On The Dangers Of Copper Theft

Please be advised that incidents of copper wire theft at our municipal substations, and from other electrical utility equipment, are on the rise, including damage to the protective fencing surrounding these installations. Individuals attempting such thefts risk serious or fatal injury to themselves, the public, and to Hydro One Brampton employees responding to these calls.

Copper thefts can cause extensive power outages and fires that may cause injury or even a fatality. These copper ground wires are designed to safely dissipate lightning strikes or current surges of electricity to the ground. Cutting and removing these ground wires eliminates the safety features that prevent electricity or lightning from hurting people or entering and damaging your home and contents.

When copper theft goes undetected, it creates a number of issues for utilities including power outages, unsafe conditions and reliability problems. Stolen copper ground wires could leave a municipal substation and its protective fencing potentially energized. More importantly, damage to these facilities can pose hazards to children playing nearby, the general public and to electrical workers. Serious injury or death can occur if this problem goes undetected.

At Hydro One Brampton, our main priority is to protect our customers and the general public by immediately responding to these adverse conditions, to repair and/or replace any cut or missing ground wires. In an effort to combat this problem, we are stepping up the patrols of our municipal substations and replacing copper ground wires with hardened copper clad steel ground wire that has no recycle value. We are also installing security cameras, alarms, and motion sensing lighting, and we are working with local police to stop these crimes by reporting all thefts of this nature.

Hydro One Brampton is also reminding customers who own their own private substations of their responsibility to inspect their equipment more frequently, including equipment grounding and the fenced enclosure. If problems are found, customers are required to contact Hydro One Brampton for immediate isolation of power to their facility in order for the customer's contractor to make immediate repairs. We also encourage customers to report all thefts to local police.

Hydro One Brampton needs your help!

As many of our municipal substations are located in and around residential and commercial areas, we are asking for your assistance in fighting these acts of crime by encouraging you to do the following:

- ▶ **Immediately report any suspicious activity around Hydro One Brampton's municipal substations or other electrical utility equipment to Peel Regional Police at (905) 453-3311**
- ▶ **Hydro One Brampton welcomes the help of the police and scrap metal dealers in targeting thieves, and also encourages members of the public to report suspected copper theft by calling your local Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1 (800) 222-8477**
- ▶ **To report any copper theft from personal property, such as house wiring or air conditioning, please call Peel Regional Police at (905) 453-3311**

Please note that only trained Hydro One Brampton personnel are permitted to enter our municipal substations. Hydro One Brampton service vehicles are either yellow or white in colour and display the Hydro One Brampton logo. No other vehicles are authorized for entry into our substations.

**We would like to thank you for working
towards a safer community!**

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