

Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc. Issues Warning On 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 injure or kill innocent people. Cutting and removing these ground wires disables the safety features that prevent electricity or lightning from hurting people or entering and damaging your home and contents. These copper ground wires are designed to safely dissipate lightning strikes or current surges of electricity to the ground.

When copper theft goes undetected, it creates a number of issues for utilities, including power outages and reliability problems. Stealing copper ground wires could leave a municipal substation and its protective fencing potentially energized at a high voltage. More importantly, damage to these facilities can pose hazards to children playing nearby, to the general public and to repair 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 repairing and/or replacing any cut or missing ground lines. We are stepping up patrols of our municipal substations, installing security cameras and alarms, installing motion sensing lighting and working with local Police to stop these crimes by reporting all thefts of this nature. We are also reminding customers, who own their own private substations, of their responsibility to inspect their equipment more frequently, to make immediate repairs when problems are found, and to report any thefts to the 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 local Police at 905-453-3311**
- ▶ **Hydro One Brampton welcomes the help of 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 contact local Police at 905-453-3311**

Please note that only trained Hydro One Brampton staff are allowed 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!**

