



# METAL THEFT...



**IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK**



# INTRODUCTION

**Metal theft is an international issue and one of the fastest growing areas of crime. An increase in the value of metals on world markets has led to a high demand for metal globally.**

Metal theft from UK Power Networks installations is a serious crime that has a negative impact upon the public and the communities in which we live. Those involved in metal theft are putting themselves and others at risk of serious injury or death.

**Metal theft is not a victimless crime. Some of the impacts of metal theft are:**

- Serious injuries and fatalities to thieves
- Sites with live electrical equipment left open and vulnerable to children
- Sites left in a dangerous state, placing staff and the public at risk
- Interruption of critical services such as electricity supplies, telephony, transport systems, water and gas
- Environmental damage caused by thieves burning cables or releasing chemicals into the ground





## THE SHOCKING TRUTH

Interference with power lines and substation equipment can have fatal consequences. In recent years there have been an increasing number of fatalities and many incidents of serious injuries and burns suffered by those involved in, or responding to metal theft incidents one.



## COMMUNITY EFFECTS

The effects of metal thefts are being increasingly felt by the community at large. Hundreds of incidents across the country have resulted in towns and villages losing power supplies for hours and sometimes days disrupting the lives of families and businesses. Vulnerable customers such as those requiring medical equipment in the home, the elderly requiring heating, and even hospital high dependency units have all suffered as a result of interference with power lines and substations.





## CRIMINALITY

Metal thieves are using increasingly desperate measures during thefts such as threatening behaviour, violence or extreme risk taking. Evidence also suggests the involvement of organised crime in some cases. With increased awareness, Police forces are looking at metal theft with increased priority. Police across the country have been launching operations to capture and prosecute metal thieves and those who handle stolen metal with large increases in arrests reported. Measures such as hidden markers, CCTV surveillance, trackers, traceable “DNA”, anti-vandal paint, and joint operations are used to help combat crime.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

UK Power Networks is appealing to the community to protect itself by being vigilant and to immediately report to police any suspicious activity seen around overhead lines and substations.

Contact details are shown on the back on this leaflet.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

If you see any of the following please contact us on **0800 587 3243**.

- Evidence of forced entry to a substation (broken fence panels or padlocks for example)
- Unmarked vans loitering around the substation
- Any suspicious behaviour seen around overhead power lines or substations.



## **PARTNERSHIP**

UK Power Networks is working at both a local and national level to help tackle this issue.



## **ABOUT US**

UK Power Networks distributes more than a quarter of the UK's electricity through its networks of substations, underground cables and overhead lines making sure the lights stay on across London, the South East and the East of England, regardless of who customers pay their energy bills to. A range of other companies deliver power to the rest of the country.

UK Power Networks is the first electricity distributor to be named in the Sunday Times' 25 Best Big Companies to Work For, and also holds the title of Utility of the Year (2015 and 2012). The company's 5,600 employees are dedicated to delivering a safe, secure electricity supply to 8.1 million homes and businesses.



# USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see metal theft or any other crime in progress call 999 immediately.

## **DO NOT PLACE YOURSELF IN DANGER.**

If you have information about individuals engaged in metal theft or dealing in stolen metal please contact your local police or **call Crimestoppers** in confidence on **0800 555 111**.

If you see any substations, cables or overhead power lines that look dangerous or look as if they have been tampered with or vandalised please call **0800 31 63 105** or **105**.

## **ACT NOW | Save a life** **Illegally-accessed substations kill**

If you see: trespassing, fly tipping, vandalism, broken locks, illegal access

CALL US

**0800 31 63 105**