

Increasing Incidents of Copper Theft

There has been an increase in theft of copper material from the live overhead network (mainly 38kV) over the last three weeks. This activity had mainly ceased in late 2015 after a period of close collaboration between ESB Networks and An Garda Siochana. We have re-established relationships with An Garda Siochana over the last three weeks and have daily contact with them to share information. These incidents generally take place at night and in isolated rural locations and pose serious risk to ESB Staff, the people carrying out the theft and to members of the public and An Garda Siochana who may approach the locus.

It is important that key ESB Networks personnel who may be involved in the response to these incidents are aware of what is happening at present – these key personnel include Call Centre staff, Control Room Operators, Dispatchers, On-Call NTs, System Managers and others having after-hour decision making duties.



What Should I Do?

Managers/Supervisors:

- Ensure all staff reporting to you receive a copy of this safety alert.
- Ensure all copper theft events are logged in [SHIELD](#) and in Asset Management [Security Incident Reporting](#)

Call Centre Staff:

- If suspicious activities are reported, log as much detail as possible from the caller: the location of the activity, XY Coordinates, the caller's name and phone number and a description of events.
- Communicate immediately with Dispatch to ascertain whether any unusual events are ongoing.
- If there are no immediate apparent events, log the call and alert your Team Lead as soon as possible.
- If the theft results in an outage to electricity customers, this should be managed as a normal fault outage.

Control Room Operators:

- Be familiar with the MV and 38kV operating policies and where possible, identify potential copper theft based on network type and SCADA indications and inform relevant HV System Manager asap.

On-Call Staff:

- Be aware that the thieves may be close to the dispatch location – please avoid all contact or confrontation.
- Foot patrols on affected network shall not take place after darkness has fallen.
- Communicate all details with Dispatch, the On-Call Supervisor/Manager and the CROs
- Report all illegal activity to An Garda Siochana

For further information on this Safety Alert please contact:

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