



Part of the canada.com Network

May 13, 2007



Home Global TV Video Correspondents Health Finance Science

Weather

Story

Hydro lost millions from theft, damage last year

Vancouver Sun

Thieves raiding B.C. Hydro installations last year — three of whom died while one was badly injured — cost the crown corporation millions of dollars in stolen property and damage, a Hydro official said today.

Now Hydro is fighting back and implementing a wide range of deterrent measures to deter thefts of copper wire and equipment including spraying the items favoured by thieves with microdots so items can be traced, said Elisha Moreno.



Global National reports



Email to a friend



Printer friendly

— There’s a product out there called Datadot which are microscopic dots that contain a logo or an ID number and these dots can be sprayed on to equipment. They can be viewed through a microscope which will enable us to identify any material

.....

• that has been stolen from us if it is recovered," she said.

A The spraying program will begin within a few months as Hydro starts target-hardening its 260 sub-stations and 16,000 junction boxes throughout the province, said Moreno.

Copper scrap is selling for \$3.20 cents a pound and this is driving the rash of thefts which police believe are mostly being done by drug addicts.

Pure copper wire might become a thing of the past as the utility has begun using copper weld "a mixture of copper and steel which is just as conductive but worth only pennies a pound and not worth stealing.

"They (thieves) seem to know this because we've heard that some of them are carrying magnets now to check which is which," she said.

Hydro installations in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island are being hit the hardest and anti-theft measures will be directed to these trouble spots first.

Better fencing and video surveillance cameras are being mounted in the sub-stations and the locks are being changed on junction boxes after investigators looking into a fatality in Langley found thieves had come up with a way to break the locks.

"This person had beat a socket wrench onto the bolt (locking the junction box) and then managed to turn the bolt and open the box," she said.

The thief then crawled inside the two-metre-long by one-metre-wide junction box and tried to remove copper wire when he was electrocuted.

©Vancouver Sun 2007

Global National News

- ▶ NATO kills "Butcher of Kandahar"
- ▶ Desperate search for missing U.S. soldiers
- ▶ Alberta to hurry entry of foreign workers
- ▶ 'Please come back!'
- ▶ Portraits in courage and sacrifice

Top News Videos

- ▶ U.S. soldiers missing
- ▶ Fewer U.S. tourists
- ▶ Canada's Warbrides
- ▶ No-fly list
- ▶ New green funding for N.S.

More News Video

you
@canada.com



GO
NOW



Google Ads

Anti Theft Device Info
Get Info on Anti Theft Device
from 14 Search Engines in 1.
www.info.com/AntiTheftDevice

Secret Satellite TV on PC
Shocking discovery they don't
Want you to know.
www.secretsatellite.com

How To Get Free Satellite
New website shows you how to watch
Satellite TV on your PC for free!
www.undergroundsatellite.com

[Contact Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [canada.com](#) | [CHTV](#) | [GlobalNational.com](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms](#) | [Copyright & Permission Rules](#)

Specialty Networks: [COOL TV](#) | [DejaView](#) | [Fox Sports World](#) | [Lonestar](#) | [mentv](#) | [Mystery](#) | [TVTropolis](#) | [Xtreme Sports](#)

[Producer Guidelines](#) | [Broadcasters of the Future Awards](#)

This site is part of the **canada.com Network**.

