




## **Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## **Media Release**

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### **Pearl River Valley Electric South Hattiesburg substation damaged by copper thieves**

Service to 2,500 Pearl River Valley Electric members was interrupted this morning due to copper thieves who damaged the Association's South Hattiesburg substation. Reports of a fire at the location were received at 6:40 am. Investigation revealed that thieves had stolen portions of the copper wiring that help ground the substation, ultimately knocking it off line and cutting service to member-consumers in south Forrest County, including the Dixie area. Crews worked as quickly as possible to make repairs and restored service at 8:40 am.

"Copper theft is a serious problem nationwide, and we have recently seen more instances in south Mississippi," said Kurt Brautigam, manager of member services. "These are criminal acts that obviously cause service issues for our members and incur additional cost to the Association, but they also create a significant safety issue. We're working with law enforcement authorities to identify the suspects in this matter."

Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association serves more than 50,000 meters in 12 south Mississippi counties.

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