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PNM, Crime Stoppers partner to raise awareness about copper theft in New Mexico

September is Copper Theft Awareness Month

(Albuquerque, N.M.) – Today, PNM and Crime Stoppers announced a partnership focused on raising awareness about copper theft aiming to provide businesses and residents with information on how to identify copper theft, what to do if you become a victim, how to anonymously report it, the reward, and how to protect yourself from copper theft.

It is a criminal act to disrupt electric service or damage electric equipment through copper theft. Copper theft is a national issue that plagues residents, utilities, and businesses every year. High copper prices entice criminals to steal metals from homes, businesses, scrap sites, and utilities. Not only is copper theft illegal and can sometimes cost customers thousands of dollars to replace, but it also poses a serious safety hazard to the public.

This year, PNM has received reports of 63 business customers hit by copper thieves. Unlike any other year, the amount of aggressive destruction for copper has significantly spiked. Once the copper is stolen, business owners may find their power is on but fluctuating, electronics are sparking, or see arcing around the meter box or transformer. Copper thieves often leave open the transformers that are in the green metal boxes housing electrical equipment and live wires. Touching it could be deadly. Stay away, never touch this equipment, and report it immediately.



To report the suspected copper theft, call PNM immediately at 888-DIAL-PNM (888-342-5766) so PNM can send out a crew to make the area safe. Unless you report an open transformer, PNM may not know it occurred. Share what you know anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 505-843-STOP (505-843-7867). Anonymous tips can also be submitted at [P3tips.com/531](https://www.p3tips.com/531). Crime Stoppers will pay a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of individuals involved in copper theft.

If you are a business owner, there are protective devices that businesses can purchase that barricade the doors to transformers and meters and cover the locks and handles to deter access. Visit [PNM.com/energy-and-copper-theft](https://www.pnm.com/energy-and-copper-theft) for more information.



About PNM

With headquarters in Albuquerque, PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico, serving more than 530,000 customers in dozens of communities across the state. PNM strives to create enduring value for customers, communities and shareholders built on a foundation of Environmental, Social and Governance Principles. At the core of our business, we are focused on our vision of creating a clean and bright energy future, our purpose of working together with our customers and community to serve their energy needs, and our values of safety, caring, and integrity. PNM is a subsidiary of PNM Resources, an energy holding company also headquartered in Albuquerque. Visit [PNM.com](https://www.pnm.com) for more information.

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