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## Call before moving dirt near poles

Dawson Public Power District is asking landowners to call before starting a land leveling or dirt-moving project near power lines. Removing the topsoil around a pole will significantly reduce its reliability, allowing it to lean or fall in windy or stormy conditions. This could cause power outages.

“The poles are placed into the ground at a certain depth, based on the size of the pole and engineering specifications. The dirt around them is then tamped to assure their stability,” explains Rob Ecklund, Manager of Engineering. “When you remove the soil around the poles, they aren’t able to withstand the same level of environmental conditions. In addition, disturbing the ground can lead to erosion problems and pole rotting issues that can make the situation worse.”

Landowners who remove soil around poles will be billed for the expense of re-setting the poles to the proper depth.

Dawson PPD also urges caution when anyone is using large equipment near power lines. Be aware of your surroundings and call if there are any clearance problems. The district’s distribution lines are energized to 7,200 volts and contact with them can be deadly.

Dawson PPD provides power to over 22,000 meters serving homes, farms and businesses from Sutherland to Shelton. Their system includes over 5,700 miles of line and approximately 100,000 poles.

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## PRESS RELEASE

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