



For immediate release

May 15, 2007

For more information,

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APD and Chugach Electric say thanks

APD and Chugach said “thank you” today to Donald Powell, the man who called in a tip May 12 after spotting a man with a bicycle and chain saw boarding a bus. Powell’s call led to the arrest of a suspect who has been charged with three counts of criminal mischief in the First Degree.

To date, Chugach has found two poles cut more than half way through on its system, while Anchorage Municipal Light & Power found one partially cut pole.

Powell had read the Saturday morning newspaper that discussed a suspect seen chain sawing a power pole near 36th Avenue and the Old Seward Highway on May 10.

Tampering with power poles can be a dangerous business. In addition, poles that are compromised can cause thousands of dollars in damages, and extensive power outages for customers.

Chugach is asking people who notice a damaged pole to report it to their electric utility. The cuts to the power poles discovered so far have been made near the ground and will be difficult to spot once grass and weeds begin to grow.

If you see damage to a pole, call Chugach at 563-7494, ML&P at 279-7671 or APD Dispatch at 786-8900.

Note: Chugach and APD will be doing a thank you to Mr. Powell at 2 p.m. today at the site of one of the damaged Chugach poles. The location is east on Dowling, past Lake Otis. About three blocks down the paved road, Dowling curves to the right, but a dirt road continues on east through a gate, and heads toward Chugach’s Dowling Substation. The location of the cut pole is down this road about a quarter-mile.

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