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Power Poles and Mother Nature Don't Get Along

660 News reports that the suspected cause of a September 10 wildfire that scorched about 5,000 acres in southern Alberta is a downed AltaLink power line. Jennifer MacGowan with Fortis Alberta said Mother Nature and power poles don't have the best relationship and maintenance is an ongoing issue. Not only do overhead power lines cause many wildfires, but as these and other wildfires spread, overhead electricity infrastructure is burned and damaged, which costs millions of dollars to repair. These ongoing repair and maintenance costs are passed onto the ratepayer which is one of the many reasons overhead electricity transmission costs are so high. Burying power lines would avert overhead lines causing wildfires in the first place, and eliminate or at minimum significantly reduce electricity infrastructure repair and maintenance costs.