

Nov. 16, 2012

Utility Pole Fires Cause Power Outages

AEP Texas reported more than 18,000 customers across 4 counties in southern Texas lost power the morning of November 16 after utility poles caught fire. The McClatchy-Tribune Regional News reported, *"Mist that rolled across the Valley early Friday morning dampened dirt and dust clinging to utility equipment, said AEP Community Affairs Manager Lee Jones. Insulation units on the utility poles began conducting electricity, thanks to the unusual combination of wind-blown dust and moisture, and caught fire."* Several thousand customers remained without power into the evening. ...Another reason to bury power lines.