

## **Energex Rolls Out Gps Technology For Power Outages**

Queensland power company ENERGEX will benefit from the roll out of a \$22 million mobile satellite navigation system to enable its crews to locate and restore power outages faster and more effectively. As the storm season approaches, ENERGEX crews across south-east Queensland will use high-tech satellite-linked laptops in their maintenance vehicles to help them restore power faster this summer. “ENERGEX’s fleet of more than 730 rapid response vehicles are now fitted with Field Force Automation, which will help ENERGEX crews locate faults in the network quickly through satellite navigation,” says Queensland Premier Anna Bligh. The system has been trialled on the Gold Coast since January this year and now more than 2000 ENERGEX emergency crews and support staff across the south-east have access to the technology. “FFA provides field crews with better access to electronic information about outages without them having to leave their vehicle. It’s a safer and faster system that will mean fewer phone calls, less travel time and paperwork,” Bligh says. As soon as ENERGEX receives notice of a power outage, a case will be generated at the call centre, evaluated and immediately despatched to rapid response crews. The State Government has already spent \$555 million on capital works and maintenance to boost the electricity capacity this summer, and ENERGEX has conducted helicopter patrols to monitor vegetation around overhead lines.

[Source esaa news]