

## Press Release

### Safety first: Rescue exercise at dizzying heights

- **Braunschweig fire service trains for emergencies at RWE's Eicklingen wind farm**
- **Successful rescue exercise 85 metres above ground**

Essen, 9 July 2021

What should you do in an emergency? Should first responders immediately call the emergency services, or take prompt action to save lives? Even at ground level, a lot of people do not know how best to react when an accident occurs. So what happens when you're 85 metres in the air? That's what the trained professionals in the fire service are for – but even they have to practise regularly for emergencies. Yesterday, a high-altitude rescue team from the Braunschweig fire service carried out an attention-grabbing rescue exercise at the RWE wind farm in Eicklingen. Not only did the six members of the fire crew have to perform the rescue from the narrow space near the rotor, but they then also had to lower the “victim” from the hub of the turbine by rope.

Matthias Ebeling, high-altitude rescue trainer for the Braunschweig fire service, sums up: “Rescuing someone from a wind turbine poses a technical challenge. When an emergency occurs, it is not just a question of how fast the services can reach the location, but also how well practised the team is. Every hand hold must be right. My team adopted a structured approach to today's challenge and dealt with it calmly. I find it reassuring that we are well prepared for an emergency and that we can be sure of performing the abseiling part safely.”

“To ensure safe operations, our employees regularly review wind turbines, even in remote locations,” adds David Elspeter, Occupational Health & Safety Officer at RWE Renewables. “Our top priority is to ensure the safety of everyone involved. To be able to respond correctly and, above all, swiftly in an emergency, we regularly train our employees in accordance with the highest standards and involve local emergency services in our exercises, as we did today. Our rescue strategy not only includes first aid for employees who are injured or sick, rescuing the individual and setting up crisis management teams, but also ensuring comprehensive communication with relevant third parties. I'd like to thank everyone involved in today's exercise – their swift action could save lives in an emergency.”

All in all, RWE operates onshore wind farms in Germany with a pro rata installed capacity of more than 550 MW. To provide training for the entire high-altitude rescue team at the Braunschweig fire service, the rescue exercise will be repeated at the wind farm in Schmarloh on 22 July.



Please direct  
enquiries to

Sinje Vogelsang  
Press spokesperson  
RWE Renewables GmbH  
T +49 201 5179-5941  
E [sinje.vogelsang@rwe.com](mailto:sinje.vogelsang@rwe.com)

**Images of the rescue exercise at Eicklingen for press use** are available in the [media library](#).

#### **RWE Renewables**

RWE Renewables is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. With around 3,500 employees, the company has onshore and offshore wind farms, photovoltaic plants and battery storage facilities with a combined capacity of approximately 9 gigawatts. RWE Renewables is driving the expansion of renewable energy in more than 20 countries on five continents. From 2020 to 2022, RWE Renewables targets to invest €5 billion net in renewable energy and to grow its renewables portfolio to 13 gigawatts of net capacity. Beyond this, the company plans to further grow in wind and solar power. The focus is on the Americas, the core markets in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

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