

# Major Power Disturbances In the World

Disturbances with Over 1 Million Affected Since 1965

1965  
**Northeastern U.S.**  
30 Million Affected  
Protection System Misoperation

1977  
**New York City**  
9 Million Affected  
Lightning

1981  
**Utah**  
1.5 Million Affected  
Fire on Right-of-Way

1989  
**Quebec**  
9 Million Affected  
GIC Current from Solar Storm

1991  
**USA and Canada**  
1 Million Affected  
Drecho Winds

1995  
**Eastern/Southeastern U.S.**  
2 Million Affected  
Hurricane

1996  
**Western U.S./Western Canada/  
Baja, New Mexico**  
2 Million & 7.5 Million Affected  
Transmission Line Outage

1998  
**Central U.S.**  
2 Million Affected  
Wind Storm

1998  
**San Francisco**  
1 Million Affected  
Improper Procedure in Substation

1998  
**Quebec, Canada**  
1.4 Million Affected  
Ice Storm

1998  
**North Central U.S./Central Canada**  
152,000 Affected  
Lightning

1999  
**Quebec, Canada**  
600,000 Affected  
High Winds

2003  
**Northeastern U.S./Eastern Canada**  
50 Million Affected  
Massive Power Fluctuation Causing a  
Cascading Effect Across the Grid

2003  
**North Carolina/Virginia**  
2.2 Million Affected  
Hurrican Isabel

2004  
**Florida, Alabama**  
5 Million Affected  
Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan,  
and Jeanne over a 6-week Period

2005  
**Alabama, Florida, Louisiana,  
Mississippi**  
2.2 Million Affected  
Hurricane Katrina

2005  
**Texas/Louisiana**  
1.3 Million Affected  
Hurricane Rita

2005  
**Los Angeles, California**  
2 Million Affected - 2 1/2 Hours  
Power Lines Sliced Accidentally

2007  
**Nebraska**  
1 Million Affected  
Ice Storms

2008  
**Florida**  
4 Million Affected – Mid-day Outage  
Substation Fire

2010  
**Southeast**  
5 Million Affected  
Hurricane Irene

2011  
**Texas**  
1 Million Affected  
Forced Outages

2011  
**Southern California/Arizona**  
5 Million Affected  
Substation Equipment Failure

2012  
**Mid-Atlantic**  
4 Million Affected  
Severe Thunderstorms

2002  
**Columbia**  
One-third of the country Affected  
Rebel Attacks

2007  
**Bogata, Columbia**  
42 Million Affected  
Substation Failure

2010  
**Chile**  
15 Million Affected  
Transformer Failure

2011  
**North and East Chile**  
9 Million Affected

2002  
**Argentina**  
2 Million Affected  
Damaged Cables

1999 - **Denmark**  
100,000 Affected  
Hurricane

2003  
**Denmark/S.E. Sweden**  
5 Million Affected  
Voltage Collapse

2005  
**Sweden**  
67 Million Affected  
Hurricane

2003  
**United Kingdom**  
410,000 Affected  
Relay Operation

1999 - **France**  
3.6 Million Affected  
Storms

2009 - **France**  
1 Million Affected  
Windstorms

2000 - **Portugal**  
5 Million Affected  
Protection System Failure

2000  
**Lisbon, Portugal**  
Storms

2003  
**Algeria**  
30 Million Affected  
Power Plant Breakdown

1999  
**Brazil**  
99 Million Affected  
Busbar Short - Lightning

2007  
**Ispirito, Brazil**  
3 Million Affected  
Cyber Attack

2009  
**Brazil and Paraguay**  
67 Million Affected  
Storms

2011  
**North East Brazil**  
53 Million Affected

2006  
**Norway**  
100,000 Affected  
Excessive Snowfall

2003  
**Helsinki, Finland**  
800,000 Affected  
Switching Error

2003  
**Italy**  
55 Million Affected  
Connection with Switzerland  
Interrupted

2005  
**Moscow, Russia**  
2 Million Affected  
Substation Fire

2003  
**Georgia**  
8.6 Million Affected  
Transmission Tower  
Collapse

2001  
**Iran**  
30 Million Affected  
Substation

1990  
**Egypt**  
70 Million Affected  
Sand Storms

2001  
**Nigeria**  
20 Million Affected  
Generation

2006  
**European Power Failure**  
Began in Germany, then Affected 15 Million  
Across France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Belgium,  
the Netherlands, and Croatia  
Overloads in Power Network in NW Germany

2001 - **India**  
200 Million Affected

2012  
**India, North & East**  
670 Million Affected

2012  
**Northern India**  
370 Million Affected

1996  
**Malaysia**  
20 Million Affected  
Second Major Outage in  
in Four Years

1988  
**Auckland, New Zealand**  
Downtown Auckland  
Cable Failures

1993  
**Athens, Greece**  
Power Lines

2004  
**Southern Greece**  
7 Million Affected  
Heatwave Causing  
Heavy Demand

2008  
**Chenzhou, China**  
4 Million Affected  
Storms

1987  
**Tokyo, Japan**  
2.8 Million Affected  
Demand Increase

2004  
**Kyushu, Japan**  
1 Million Affected  
Typhoon

2005  
**Toyko, Japan**  
1.4 Million Affected  
Crane Hits Transmission  
Line

2011  
**Northern Japan**  
30 Million Affected  
Earthquake/Tsunami  
hits Fukushima

1999  
**Taiwan**  
18 Million Affected  
Earthquake-Transmission  
Tower

1999  
**Taiwan**  
18 Million Affected  
Transmission Tower  
Collapse & Landslide

1996 & 2002  
**Phillipines**  
40 Million Affected  
Power Plant Breakdowns

2005  
**Java & Bali, Indonesia**  
100 Million Affected  
System Unbalance

This is not an exhaustive list of all major power outages around the world. There are numerous power outages such as France '78, '87; Belgium '82; Sweden '83; Italy '89, '93, '94; Netherlands '97; and Chicago '99 that are not shown on the map.