

PRESS RELEASE

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Power outage due to outdated equipment

At around 5am this morning a sudden and unexpected earth fault at the Montagu substation caused a total blackout of the Electrical Distribution Network.

The lack of protection to the Montagu substation, which houses outdated switch gear from 1972, meant that the earth fault affected the whole Electrical Distribution Network. The damage to the switch gear caused by this morning's fault is so extensive that it is beyond economical repair.

Once the fault was identified it was immediately isolated and earthed as a safety precaution to allow GEA staff to work on the switchgear and transformer to bypass the fault.

With the fault isolated, power supply was restored slowly to individual districts across Gibraltar in order to avoid tripping the system, which would have caused further power outages. Electricity supply was restored to most of Gibraltar by approximately 11am.

However, the immediate vicinity of the Montagu substation remained without power. Emergency repairs are being carried out over the course of this afternoon to restore power to this area.