



Squirrel causes power outage in Granite Falls

By Mark Jackson, May 25, 2016, USA

GRANITE FALLS, NC (05-23-2016)...A squirrel scampered into the Granite Falls Electric Substation on West Summit Avenue this past Sunday. This pesky squirrel damaged equipment that lead to the power outage. Obviously, the squirrel did not survive.

There are dramatic things that cause power outages: exploding substations, ice storms, and heat waves. Then, there are the less dramatic sources like, well, squirrels. Squirrels love to use power lines as their personal highways. Black Snakes have also been a problem as they like to climb trees and utility poles in search of prey.

Utility industry experts believe squirrels and related rodents are directly responsible for more than half of all U.S. power outages, often resulting in their electrocution.

So, the next time you experience a power outage in fair weather...it just might have been related to a squirrel or snake ignoring the "Do Not Enter" signs.

This power outage also may have been a contributing factor for an accident on HWY 321 in Granite Falls where a vehicle flipped over at the intersection in front of Wal-Mart while the traffic lights were not working.