

Early morning grocery shopping was interrupted at Hannaford Sunday when the store lost electricity thanks to a squirrel that apparently was noshing on some wires.

“The power was out for a bit less than two hours on Sunday due to an electrical disruption caused by a squirrel,” said Hannaford spokeswoman Ericka Dodge. “The store reopened at 9:50 a.m. after losing power at 7:30 a.m.”

Central Maine Power serves the store.

Catharine Hartnett, spokeswoman for CMP’s parent company, Avangrid, said the outage was likely caused by a squirrel on a transformer on a pole that serves the store.

“About 17 percent of outages each year are caused by animals and CMP has embarked on a program to install ‘animal guards’ on our pole-top transformers that prevent squirrels from making the contact that causes outages — and saves the squirrels,” Hartnett said. “We have implemented about 12,000 so far since mid-2020 and intend to install about 18,000 more this year.”