



## The Squirrel Saga

Recently the District has been experiencing brief power outages that, in some cases, seem to occur at approximately the same time of day. Unfortunately, although annoying, the problem is due to squirrels. The outages have been listed below by date, time, cause, and location.

In a nut shell, the squirrel scampers across the electrical wires and as it simultaneously touches both an energized component, such as the transformer located at the top of the utility pole, and a grounded piece of equipment, it completes the circuit and creates an arc. Due to the arc being formed, it causes an instantaneous flash of blue light which, in turn, typically causes the demise of the squirrel. The electricity begins to flow again once the squirrel breaks the arc by falling to the ground. That's why any disruption tends to be over very quickly.

On occasion, however, if the animal becomes lodged between the equipment, the outage can cause a fault and service will be interrupted until the line crew is able to clear the debris and restores service. This was the issue on Saturday, July 15, 2017. Crew located the issue and had power restored within 45 minutes.

Please know that the crew of KLPD works diligently, using the methods available to them, to avoid such circumstances. Our arborists continue to remove hazards of limbs and branches throughout the District while our linemen continue to install insulated equipment brackets and wildlife protection features. Sometimes, however, as nature will be nature, occurrences such as this cannot be avoided.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. If further questions should arise, please do not hesitate to contact us at 207-985-3311, [info@klpd.org](mailto:info@klpd.org), or directly to the General Manager, Todd Shea, at [tshea@klpd.org](mailto:tshea@klpd.org).

### Most Recent Power Outages

June 21, 2017	10:30 PM	Squirrel – Burnt Wire	Cook Lane
June 22, 2017	3:30 AM	Flying Squirrel – Changed Damaged Transformer	Alfred Road
July 02, 2017	6:08 AM	Squirrel – Riser Pole	Patterson Drive
July 5, 2017	6:20 AM	Squirrel – Riser Pole	Patterson Drive
July 10, 2017	6:00 AM	Squirrel	Cat Mousam Road
July 15, 2017	7:53 AM	Squirrel	Thompson Road