

CUSTOMER ALERT

INNER CITY SDC



City Power Responds to an Outage in the Inner City Caused by substation fire

06 February 2026

City Power wishes to inform customers of a fire incident that occurred at the Bree Substation in the Inner City Service Delivery Centre in the early hours of this morning, resulting in a power outage affecting several parts of the Inner City.

At around 02h45, the 88kV Fordsburg/Bree feeder tripped and our operators were immediately dispatched to investigate. This occurred shortly after security personnel at the Bree Substation noticed smoke emanating from the facility and alerted the City of Johannesburg Emergency Management Services (EMS).

EMS arrived on site at approximately 04h30 and worked to contain and manage the fire, which was brought under control at around 06h50. The emergency services teams are currently conducting safety inspections at the substation. Our teams from City Power will only be permitted to enter the facility to assess the extent of the damage once EMS has declared the site safe for entry..

From a preliminary external assessment, it appears that only one transformer has been affected by the fire. However, a full inspection will be conducted once access is granted to determine the exact cause of the fire and the extent of the damage to the infrastructure.

The incident has resulted in power outages affecting customers in Newtown, parts of Parktown, Braamfontein, Bree West, Bank City, Ferreirasdorp, parts of the Johannesburg CBD, and Marshalltown. Affected streets and buildings include Diagonal Street, Harrison Street, Simmonds Street, Ntemi Piliso Street, Rahima Moosa Street, the New Stock Exchange via John Ware, Bank City No. 1 and 2, President Street, the JCI Building, Pritchard Street West, Kerk Street Central, Jeppe Street West, Bree Street West, and surrounding areas.

We are aware of the significant impact this incident has had on customers in these areas. At the time of the incident, there were 536 open outage calls logged, with more than 265 of these calls having been logged over 24 hours ago. These calls will now be grouped into the current outage linked to the substation fire and will be attended to as part of the restoration process once supply is reinstated. We urge customers not to be alarmed when they see some of their calls closed.

For safety reasons, the Bree Substation will remain switched off until the investigation, damage assessment, and risk evaluation have been completed. Restoration of supply will only commence once it is confirmed that it is safe to do so.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused and assure customers that teams are on site and will work around the clock to restore power as soon as possible.

Customers are urged to unplug all electrical appliances to prevent possible damage from power surges when electricity supply is restored, which may occur with little or no prior notice.

We will provide updates during the course of the day, as more information becomes available.

ISSUED BY CITY POWER

Isaac Mangena, General Manager

Department of Public Relations and Communication