



Eaton Communications  
Eaton Center  
Cleveland, OH 44122  
tel:  
youremail@eaton.com



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**Contact** Mike DeCamp, (919) 870-3264

## **Eaton's Blackout Tracker Annual Report Shows 36.7 Million People affected by more than 3,500 power outages in 2017**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** ... Underscoring the critical need for disaster recovery planning for businesses across the United States, power management company Eaton today announced the release of its Blackout Tracker Annual Report for 2017. This year's report found that in 2017 nearly 27 million people were affected by 3,526 blackouts lasting an average of 81 minutes per power outage. While California topped the list of states with the most interruptions for the ninth consecutive year, power failures impacted individuals and businesses in all 50 states.

"The Blackout Tracker Annual Report shows the scope and severity of power outages across the country, leading to widespread damage and significant consequences for businesses," said Mike DeCamp, senior marketing communications manager, Power Quality Division, Eaton. "With the number of people affected by pervasive electrical power outages, surges and spikes continuing to rise each year, it's more critical than ever to develop a disaster recovery plan with reliable power protection to avoid detrimental downtime."

Blackout Tracker Annual Report data is based on a full year of reported power outages across the U.S. and is organized into three sections: an introduction to power outages and the impact of downtime, an overview of national power outage data, and power outage data by state. Eaton's Blackout Tracker report features top outage lists, including the most significant reported outages, largest data center outages and the most unusual causes for outages.

Among the most unusual causes of power outages in 2017:

- Bradford, Illinois: On June 11, a tree branch, rotted from beehives and honeycombs inside, broke off and landed on power lines. Crews had to find a way to remove the

state-protected insects without harming them, and were forced to wait for the arrival of state agency employees.

- Grand Haven Township, Michigan: On Sept. 19, a sailboat's mast hit an overhead wire in a swampy area on the Lost Channel, catching fire and resulting in a 75-minute blackout.
- Felton, Delaware: On Dec. 12, a tractor-trailer truck carrying a load of chickens cut electricity to area residents and snarled traffic after the flock escaped.

The costs associated with power failures have continued to rise. Although power failures are commonly due to weather and unforeseen events, uninterruptible power systems (UPSs), generators and power management software solutions are designed to deliver reliable power during outages so data centers stay up-and-running.

Eaton has tracked power outage information since Feb. 16, 2008. Data for the report is taken from broadcast news reports, newspapers, websites (including those of newspapers and TV stations) and personal accounts.

To download the entire report and track power outages across the U.S., visit [switchon.eaton.com/blackout-tracker](http://switchon.eaton.com/blackout-tracker). To learn about Eaton's line of power quality products and services, visit [www.eaton.com/powerquality](http://www.eaton.com/powerquality).

Eaton's electrical business is a global leader with expertise in power distribution and circuit protection; backup power protection; control and automation; lighting and security; structural solutions and wiring devices; solutions for harsh and hazardous environments; and engineering services. Eaton is positioned through its global solutions to answer today's most critical electrical power management challenges.

Eaton is a power management company with 2017 sales of \$20.4 billion. We provide energy-efficient solutions that help our customers effectively manage electrical, hydraulic and mechanical power more efficiently, safely and sustainably. Eaton is dedicated to improving the quality of life and the environment through the use of power management technologies and services. Eaton has approximately 96,000 employees and sells products to customers in more than 175 countries. For more information, visit [Eaton.com](http://Eaton.com).

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