

Avery County in the dark for 2 hours

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Tuesday, 10 July 2007 20:00

Power is a precious commodity- that's what Avery County learned yesterday afternoon.

Just after three, an electrical problem left almost the whole county in the dark. The problem was corrected approximately two hours later, but not before it inconvenienced citizens and businesses.

Many restaurants and other businesses had to temporarily close.

Even Cannon Memorial Hospital was not immune according to Lori English.

She said the hospital could not perform CT scans. A patient had to be transported to Watauga Medical Center due to the outage.

The problem, according to Mountain Electric in Roan Mountain, was electrical in the substations. Substations affected included Cranberry, Newland, Banner Elk and Linville. That's a lot of people according to Mountain Electric in Newland's Dale Benfield.

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In fact- that covers about all of Avery County, save Beech Mountain, Benfield said.

Tennessee Valley Authority tackled the problem right away, according to the Roan Mountain office. Restaurant managers said it could have been worse. The power returned around 5:30- just before the dinner rush.