

Havana electricity

A day after a massive nationwide blackout left millions of Cubans without electricity, authorities were trying to reconnect the island's integrated energy system Saturday with gradual and limited success. (AP Video/Ariel Fernandez and Milexsy Duran)

Cuba's electrical grid went offline Friday after one of the island's major power plants failed, the energy ministry said. The announcement came hours after the government announced that one of the nation's main thermoelectric plants, La Antonio Guiteras, had ceased operations at about 11 a.m. local time, with authorities saying it was only offline temporarily. (AP Video/Ariel Fernandez, Osvaldo Angulo and Milexsy Duran)

A street vendor selling candles waits for customers during a massive blackout following the failure of a major power plant in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

A resident prepares a soup over an open fire during a massive blackout following the failure of a major power plant in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Residents eat outside their homes to avoid the indoor heat during a massive blackout after a major power plant failed in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

A man drives his American classic car during a massive blackout after a major power plant failed in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Oct. 18, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

A man walks along a street with the aid of crutches during a massive blackout after a major power plant failed in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Oct. 18, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

A woman prepares to catch a tossed frisbee during a massive blackout after a major power plant failed in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Oct. 18, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

HAVANA (AP) -- Millions of people in Cuba were left without electricity for two days after the nation's energy grid went down when one of the island's major power plants failed. The widespread blackout that swept across the country was the worst in years.

Authorities have restored power to some people in Cuba's capital, where 2 million people live, but much of Havana has remained dark. The impact of the blackout goes beyond lighting, as services like water supply also depend on electricity to run pumps.

About half of Cuba was plunged into darkness on Thursday evening, followed by the entire island on Friday morning after the failure of the Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant in Matanzas Province east of Havana.

Even in a country that for decades has been accustomed to frequent outages amid a series of economic crises, the grid failure was unprecedented in modern times, aside from incidents involving powerful hurricanes, such as one in 2022.

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