

# Tokyo power outages

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A man in his 60s says he had to read documents near a window because he couldn't use the computers. He says he gave up and decided to go home when it got dark outside. A custodian at one of the affected offices said he guided people to the emergency stairs because the elevator stopped working. He said he hoped the power would quickly be restored.

Tokyo Electric Power Company's transmission and distribution arm says about 1,000 users were affected at one point, but that only 20 units were without service as of 4 p.m.

A power outage hit a bullet train running north of Tokyo on Tuesday morning, forcing other shinkansen services in eastern and central Japan to be suspended and leaving those connecting to Tokyo halted throughout the day, resulting in the cancellation of 282 trains and affecting about 97,600 people, their operator said.

Sections of the Tohoku, Joetsu and Hokuriku shinkansen lines were affected after a 12-car bullet train crossed a section of track in Saitama Prefecture where an overhead electrical wire was hanging down and lost power, East Japan Railway Co. said. The train came to a stop around 10 a.m.

The operator said it expects to resume normal operations starting Wednesday, with the possibility of delays or suspensions depending on the progress of the repair work.

As the company worked to resume services, two individuals involved with the repair work were taken to hospital following an explosion near the location of the fallen wire, local police said. One of them sustained severe burns, according to JR East.

The Hokuriku line's Kagayaki train suffered damage to two pantographs and a window, along with structures on the tracks, including metal parts supporting the wire, the operator said.

Around 350 passengers disembarked from the train onto the tracks and were safely guided to the ground using emergency stairs by around 1:30 p.m. The operator reported that no one sustained injuries or complained of health issues.

"I heard big sounds and thought it was another earthquake," said Yoshiko Horii from Toyama Prefecture, one of the areas rocked by the magnitude 7.6 quake on New Year's Day, who was on a shinkansen train bound for Tokyo when it was halted.

In JR stations affected by the suspensions, people lined up to speak with station staff or to apply for ticket

changes after announcements about major delays were made.

"There's nothing we can do," said Ryuji Sekine, 33, who was in the northeast city of Sendai for a business trip from Tokyo and planned to go on to Niigata Prefecture. "If services are suspended in the afternoon, then I'll have no choice but to stay in Sendai tonight," he said.

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