



BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED

2½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway | P.O. Box 327 | Belize City, Belize
Corporate: +501.227.0954 | Customer Care: 0.800.235.2273 | Fax: +501.223.0891

March 24, 2024

BEL Continues to Manage Power Supply in San Pedro

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) continues to monitor unprecedented demand for electricity in San Pedro (Ambergris Caye) over this weekend and encourages our Customers and the public on the island to assist us with implementing energy conservation measures where possible.

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, just after 2:00 p.m., the demand for electricity on Ambergris Caye surpassed the rated capacity of the single submarine cable that connects the island to the national grid. BEL responded immediately to protect the submarine cable and circuit from damage by shutting off supply to the entire feeder #3 (from BEL's substation near the centre of town through the northern part of the island up to Tranquility Resort) to lower the power flow through the cable.

Thereafter, BEL conducted various switching operations on the distribution feeders on the island to manage demand to remain below the maximum capacity of the submarine cable until 9:25 p.m. in the night when demand had sufficiently subsided so that supply could be fully restored to the entire island.

The switching operations resulted in power interruptions to Customers connected to the portions of the feeders affected: The first section of the feeder #3 from the centre of town up to Boca Del Rio was without power for 12 minutes, the second section of feeder #3 from Boca Del Rio going northwards to Mata Grande was without power for just under 5 hours, the last section of feeder #3 from Mata Grande to Tranquility Resort was without power for 6 hours and 15 minutes, and all of feeder #2 in the centre of town was without power for 45 minutes. No part of either Feeder #1 (in the centre of town) nor Feeder #4 (going southwards) was affected by the power interruptions.


The decision to shut off supply to mainly the northern part of the island was made upon consideration of the fact that feeders #1 and #2 and feeder #3 up to Boca Del Rio serve mainly the centre of town and critical and essential services such as the medical clinic, police station, fire station, supermarkets, and other critical services. Moreover, there is a higher proportion of residential users in these areas who do not have ready access to backup power supply, as would commercial establishments and resorts in the northern part of the island.

We sincerely apologize to all our Customers who were affected by these power interruptions. However, we must take every precaution to protect the submarine cable circuit, which is currently the only supply interconnection to the island.

Our teams continue to monitor the power demand in San Pedro as hot and humid weather conditions and the activities leading up to and throughout the Easter weekend are expected to place further strain on the capacity of the electricity supply on the island.

In the meantime, we are asking our Customers on the island to assist us by implementing energy conservation measures where possible.

We are also appealing to all Customers with standby generators to respond to our requests to switch over to their standbys when such situations arise in the future. In that way, we may be able to reduce the degree of forced load shedding or prevent having to carry out any forced load shedding at all.

HOTTER MONTHS mean fans work harder & stay on longer.	
	ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turn off lights, fans, and other electrical appliances when not in use.• Use energy efficient LED light bulbs where possible.• Set your air conditioner to 75° Fahrenheit to reduce your energy usage.• Wash full loads of laundry.• Ensure your refrigerator door seal is tight and that no gaps or cracks let cold air escape.

We thank our Customers on Ambergris Caye and the public who rely on our services for their understanding and cooperation as we continue to make every effort to deliver safe, reliable, and sustainable electricity services and energy solutions to you.

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