



Beavers to blame for Saskatchewan power outage

By Cheryl Santa Maria, **Digital Reporter**

Tuesday, October 31, 2017, 3:21 PM - A widespread power outage in Saskatchewan over the weekend is the result of beavers chewing through a power pole, SaskPower reports.

The utility company is calling it a "very Canadian" problem.

But it wasn't just the beavers' fault -- strong winds also played a role, helping to topple the weakened pole to the ground.

The City of Prince Albert and portions of northern Saskatchewan had their power knocked out for between one and five hours on Sunday.

"This was one of our larger wooden power poles and there was ample evidence of beaver damage at the base of it, so beavers had been chewing away at it," spokesperson Jonathan Tremblay told the CBC.

"It was a bit of a domino effect."

According to SaskPower, animals account for about one third of the outages reported by their customers -- but the culprits are usually birds or squirrels.

Beaver-related outages appear to be rare.