

Power outage darkens downtown Washington

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A widespread rush-hour power outage struck much of downtown Washington Friday. Scores of office buildings were dark and empty, crowds of idle workers milled about and Metrorail service was halted for thousands of commuters. Traffic signals were out in an area covering roughly 30 blocks, the Washington Post said. Pepco spokesman Robert Dobkin said the outage was caused by an equipment failure at a Pepco substation on 10th Street. The outage further disrupted Red Line Metrorail service that was already delayed because of an early morning fire on the tracks at the Dupont Circle station, officials said. Among the closed office buildings were the U.S. Treasury Department and Office of Management and Budget. The International Spy Museum also closed because, as a museum gate attendant observed, "You can't spy in the dark."

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