

MEDIA STATEMENT

CITY POWER RESUMES RESTORATION EFFORTS AT CENTRAL SUBSTATION FOLLOWING FIRE

 28 September 2026

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City Power technical teams have resumed restoration efforts at Central Substation this morning, following the fire that damaged critical electricity infrastructure at the substation on Saturday, 26 September 2026.

The fire affected infrastructure in the underground electricity network, resulting in an outage affecting customers in Marshalltown and surrounding parts of the Johannesburg CBD.

The Acting CEO, Mr Charles Tlouane, convened a team on site at the substation this morning to work on a restoration and repairs plan.

The immediate focus today is on cleaning the affected infrastructure, replacing stolen equipment and carrying out the necessary tests to establish which parts of the network can safely be restored. Once the affected equipment has been cleaned and tested, teams will begin restoration efforts for electricity supply in stages and reconnect sections of the network that are ready to return to service.

This work is being carried out in stages because each section of the network must first be checked and confirmed safe before it can be returned to service. The objective is to progressively restore the electricity supply to affected customers as different sections of the network are safely brought back into operation.

Restoration efforts only resumed this morning because, although the smoke had cleared on Sunday, 27 September 2026, and the area had been released for the technical assessment and restoration process, temperatures inside the affected area remained too high for teams to safely continue working.

The latest assessment of the affected area found evidence of suspected cable theft and vandalism inside the underground tunnels. Technical teams discovered an axe, a jigsaw, and other tools commonly associated with cable theft, most of which were found beneath the damaged equipment. There was also evidence of attempts to cut copper cables in the area. Preliminary observations suggested that the suspected tampering may have triggered the explosion and subsequent fire.

Following the discovery of this evidence, City Power teams withdrew from the affected section to allow law enforcement authorities to secure the scene, collect evidence and conduct their investigations. Police investigations into the incident are continuing. A person suspected of being involved in the incident was badly burnt and remains under police guard in hospital.

City Power remains concerned about criminal activity targeting critical electricity infrastructure and the impact of such activity on electricity supply and customers in the Inner City.

At this stage, City Power cannot provide an estimated restoration time, as teams must first complete the necessary cleaning, checks and restoration work.

If all goes according to plan, customers will be restored progressively as different sections of the network are safely brought back into service.

Residents and businesses are urged to report suspicious activities around electricity infrastructure to City Power Security Risk Management on 011 490 7900 or 011 490 7911, or via WhatsApp on 083 579 4497.

We urge members of the public to refrain from going to the substation for safety reasons, and to avoid speaking to technicians on site, as this may delay the work.

City Power apologises for the continued inconvenience caused to affected customers and will communicate further developments as restoration work progresses.

ENDS

ISSUED BY CITY POWER

Isaac Mangena, General Manager

Department of Public Relations and Communication