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# Massachusetts had 10th most power outages in US last year, study finds



Work was done at a power station in the Back Bay last summer after an outage affected the Boston neighborhood. *Credit: (Pat Greenhouse/Globe Staff)*

**By Matt Rocheleau**

Boston.com Staff

APRIL 10, 2014 5:08 PM

**M**assachusetts had the 10th most reported power outages in the US last year, according to state-by-state data compiled by power management company Eaton Corporation.

The 2013 Blackout Tracker Annual Report found that there were 98 reported outages in Massachusetts up from 74 outages the prior year.

Outages last year affected a total of 453,048 people for a combined duration of 4,748 minutes, or nearly 80 hours, the recently-released [report](#) said. The average outage affected about 8,500 people for about 3.6 hours.



More than one-third of the outages in the state last year were the result of faulty equipment or human error, according to the report.

The next most prevalent cause was “unknown,” which accounted for about a quarter of all outages.

Weather and falling trees caused about 20 percent of the outages in Massachusetts, while vehicle accidents caused about 10 percent.

About five percent were planned outages, and three percent were caused by animals.

California had the most outages of any state last year at 464, followed by Texas at 159 and Michigan at 144.

Across the country, there were 3,236 reported outages, which represented an increase of about 15 percent from the prior year, the report found. But, the number of people impacted by outages went down, from 25 million in [2012](#) to 14 million last year.

“However,” the company said, “complete data is often unavailable on certain aspects of reported outages, including the number of people affected and the duration of the blackout.”

The company said electrical power outages, surges and spikes cost the US economy an estimated \$150 billion a year in damages.

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## Harvard Prof. Henry Louis Gates Gets Unreal Housing Perks From NYU

Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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## Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting



Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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## Boston Celtics Owners Invest in Skateboard League

There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.

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## BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks



Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.

Entertainment 2 hours ago Share



## US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner

A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

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## Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers







Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

## Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing



A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

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## Hike with Caution at White Mountains



Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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## Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?

Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

Health  3 hours ago  Share





## Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach

The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.



## Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

Life  3 hours ago  Share



## 10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

## Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

News 4 hours ago Share



## Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’

Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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## Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary


The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

Sports 4 hours ago Share



## Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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## Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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## Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero



A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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## Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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## Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

Weather Wisdom  5 hours ago  Share



## Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future

Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

Cars  12 hours ago  Share



## Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident

Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.



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## Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500





The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

Extra Bases  12 hours ago  Share

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## North Reading Man Busted Allegedly Selling Drugs Out of Restaurant



Richard "Ricky" Ward faces a number of drug charges following a six-month investigation by police.

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## Feds Deny Tsarnaev Lawyers' Complaint About Leaks

Federal prosecutors say there's no need for a hearing on what defense attorneys have called leaks and improper comments in the case of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

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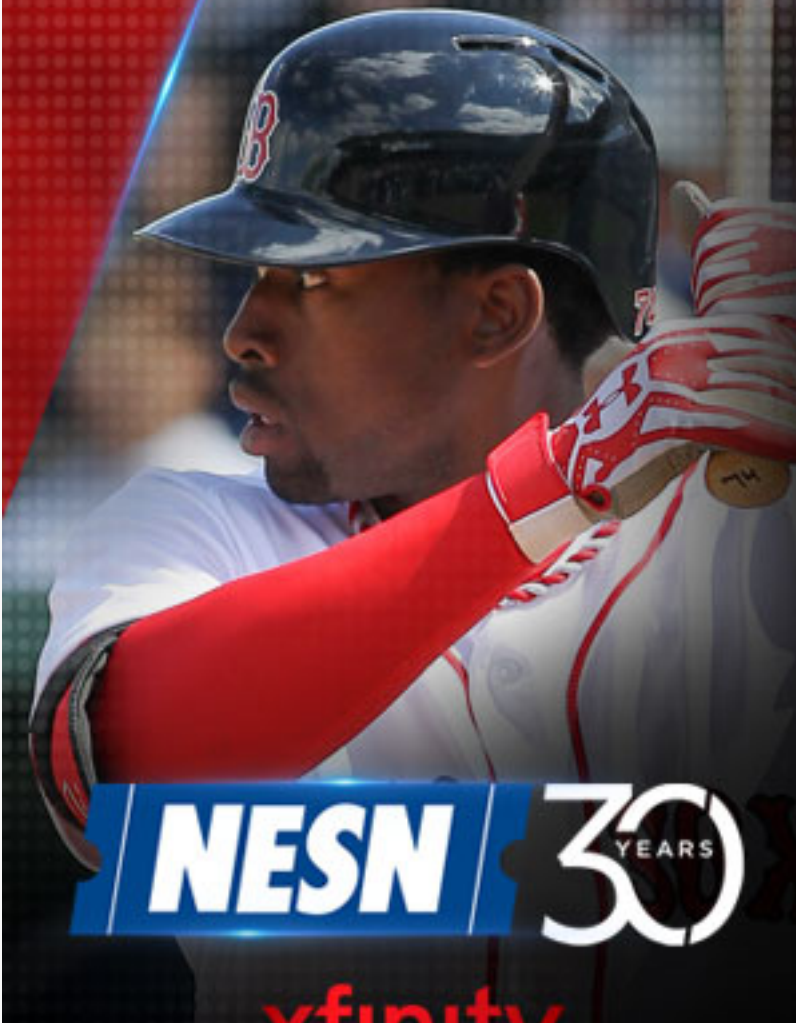
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