



## Animals can cause breakdowns too!

Loss bulletin

### Risk Solutions

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Although there are many causes of equipment breakdowns, it is surprising how many are caused by animals and how much damage can result.

#### Snake shuts down city power

A snake squeezed into a breaker box in a municipal utility substation, knocking out power to the city. Damage from electrical arcing was so severe that temporary rental equipment was brought in to restore service.

- Paid losses, including \$84,754 lost income, totalled \$342,707.

#### Squirrel accident means no ice, no beer

A squirrel shorted out a utility transformer and caused power to fluctuate inside a nearby store. The accident damaged a snow cone ice shaving machine and a beer cooler's refrigeration compressor.

- Paid losses: \$3,340

#### Bat causes law office telephone breakdown

When the telephone system in a law office went down, a technician began troubleshooting by opening the equipment cabinet on the voice processor. He heard a strange sound and a bat flew out of the console. The animal had somehow become trapped and shorted out the system's circuitry.

- Paid losses: \$4,800

#### Horse damages healing therapy machine

A horse being treated for a leg injury kicked the head of a shockwave therapy machine. The veterinarian observed that sparks later shot from the machine, which was used to help animals heal broken bones and connective tissue. A new machine coil, transducer and therapy head had to be shipped from Europe.

- Paid losses: \$35,270

#### Birds on high voltage wires

Birds flew into high voltage lines connected to transformers for a community building complex, disrupting the power supply and damaging fourteen rooftop air conditioning units. Extensive repairs were necessary.

- Paid losses: \$203,789

#### Lizards on electrical connections

Smoke poured from the main panel and circuit breaker at a regional wastewater treatment plant. Firefighters responded and found two dead lizards on the burned out connections. The accident shut down pumps until repairs could be completed.

- Paid losses: \$8,839