

No electric power for two days

For two days the current was missing in South of Sweden and the whole of Denmark.



It was about 1975 close to Christmas evening, it was a bit cold and all the the light were on to celebrate we went for brighter days. Then suddenly the were no current in the house.

After a few minutes we looked over to the neighbors – also blackout. We lived by ocean and could se se Sveden from there – also blackout. Then we knew that it was pretty serious.

We had to live with no electricity. We places a lot of candles all over the house as most people had candles. Many people had gas and could cook on. Those who has electric burners, found the camping gear. Eventually all had their food.

There was different things to do, the TV did not work. Some people made babies other played chess. Some went visiting as car could still drive, but filling it was impossible. As I was driveng in Copenhagen I spotted a many drivers who panicked, there were no traffic lights.

We got an explanation in the radio at the only channel that worked:

It was a high voltage wire that hit a tree in Sweden because of high current use and trees under the wires. The high voltage wire switched off. Other wires would have to take the load, so they switched off because of overload.

The south of Sweden is independent of the north of Sweden. Denmark borrowed current from Sweden at the under sea cables. Sweden had nuclear and water so the current was relative cheap. Denmark was running on only coal.

When there were blackout in Sweden it propagated to the whole of Denmark. The Germans was quick enough to switch off the connection between Denmark and Germany. If they have not been so fast we would see the whole of Europe without electricity.

The transistor radio said that they would attempt to start the big old diesel engine at an electricity generator in Copenhagen. It was a long time since it had run and if it did not succeed it would take 24 hours before the bottles were filled with compressed air to try again. It started with first attempt. Then it was less than a few hours before the country had electricity again.

Since that date the engine is started once a year, which you look at.

What can we learn from this event?

In 1975 we had telephone for 48 hours even without electricity. The exchanges ran with Ni-Fe batteries, which could last for at least 60 years. We had candles and some had kerosene lamps. We had mostly gas for cooking. Children were out playing, so they hardly felt it.

In 2024 we have mobile phones, computers, heating electric, electric burners, electric toothbrush, etc..

We are having such an arsenal of electronic equipment so we will look for help when the electricity is gone like in 1975. We do not have a phone as we had in 1975 (for 48 hours). Petrol and diesel cars are easier to do with than battery cars without electricity. Banks became after 1975 fully integrated in our economy, so today you do not have any credit under blackout.

FINISHED