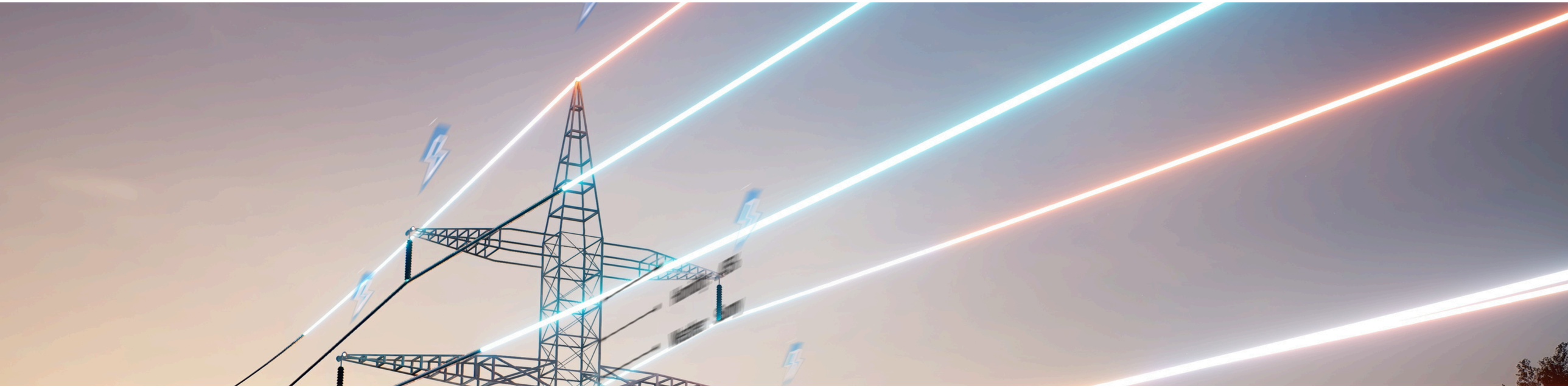
The Great Canadian DISASTER

National exercise designed to test decision-making, coordination, and continuity capabilities under complex, cascading disruptions.

Test your plans before reality does

Scenario Launch



Scenario

Canada experiences a cascading national power failure affecting hydroelectric generation and transmission across multiple provinces. Within 45 minutes, over 70% of Canadians are without power, with major urban centres experiencing rolling or sustained blackouts.

Start Time	Next Inject	Date
12:00 pm EDT	**45 minutes**	**May 1, 2026**

Professional Practices

1. *Program Management*
2. *Risk Assessment*
3. *Business Impact Assessment*

Risk and Resilience Trends

- *IT Disruptions*
- *Power Outages*
- *FInancial Conditions*
- *Reputational Risks*

Canada experiences a cascading national power failure affecting hydroelectric generation and transmission across multiple provinces. Within 45 minutes, over 70% of Canadians are without power, with major urban centres experiencing rolling or sustained blackouts.

Initial technical indicators strongly suggest a hostile nation-state cyber operation targeting operational technology (OT) and grid management systems, designed to cause widespread disruption through operational failures rather than data destruction.

Telecommunications are degraded as backup power depletes, and misinformation begins circulating almost immediately, further complicating situational awareness.

At this stage, the incident is assessed as critical infrastructure disruption, with response efforts focused on safety, stabilization, and restoration under uncertain conditions.

The Great Canadian DISASTER

May 1, 2026 12:00

In the first 45 minutes of receiving this information, how will you (and your team) consider human factors, maintain critical operations, and coordinate response amid widespread power loss, degraded communications, and uncertain information?

Large Corporations & Critical Infrastructure Operators

This event presents as a systemic national emergency in which the organization is both directly impacted and part of the broader response ecosystem. Power loss, telecom instability, and cyber risk occur simultaneously across regions, disrupting operations and supply chains while drawing immediate scrutiny from governments, regulators, customers, and media. Decisions made under uncertainty carry operational, legal, and reputational consequences beyond the organization itself.

Medium-Sized Corporations

The outage is a severe external shock that overwhelms normal operating assumptions, with limited ability to influence restoration timelines or national response actions. Loss of power and connectivity disrupts operations, customers, and workforce availability, while leadership must balance continuity, staff safety, and customer trust with incomplete and often conflicting information.

Small & Medium Enterprises

For SMEs, this is a survival-level disruption where immediate concerns outweigh the national context. Power loss halts sales, payments, and deliveries, staff availability becomes uncertain, and cash flow pressures escalate quickly. Decisions are made under personal and business stress, with recovery dependent on community stability and customer goodwill.

Communities & Local Governments

The scenario unfolds as a public safety and trust challenge layered onto infrastructure failure. Power outages disrupt essential services, and residents look to local authorities for reassurance, coordination, and fairness—often before clear information or resources are available. Maintaining calm, protecting vulnerable populations, and sustaining public confidence become central priorities.

Individuals & Households

For individuals, this is a disruptive lived experience, not a strategic crisis. Daily routines stop abruptly as power, communications, and services fail, while inconsistent information and misinformation increase anxiety. Households must make practical decisions about safety, self-sufficiency, and information sharing as the disruption continues.

DRI CANADA Train. Prepare. Recover.