

# Hurricane Safety & Preparedness



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Before the Storm Preparations and Safety Procedures:



- ⚡ Stay tuned to local radio and TV stations for news about watches, warnings and information from your local electric cooperative.
- ⚡ Have your hurricane supply kit ready to go.
- ⚡ Fill bathtubs with extra water.
- ⚡ Plan an evacuation route if necessary. Contact local authorities for information about evacuation routes and shelters. Leave early. Always let someone know what your evacuation plans are.
- ⚡ Create an inventory of items in your house. Videotape or take pictures of your home.
- ⚡ Gather insurance information and check into flood insurance.
- ⚡ Adjust the temperature of your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings to keep your food fresh longer in case you lose power.
- ⚡ If you have a swimming pool, turn off all pumps and filters.
- ⚡ Cover windows.
- ⚡ Bring outdoor furniture inside.
- ⚡ Fasten boats securely.
- ⚡ Elevate furniture to minimize damage in case of flooding.
- ⚡ If it looks as though water may enter your home, it's a good idea to open the main breaker in your electrical breaker box in order to cut off power.
- ⚡ If evacuating, unplug appliances and electronic equipment.
- ⚡ Turn off electricity and main water valve.
- ⚡ Lock your home.



## Don't Forget Man's Best Friend



Adding a few items to your hurricane kit can ensure your four-legged friends will weather the storm. Please remember that most shelters do not allow pets, so be sure to make other arrangements.

### **Pet care items to include in your hurricane kit:**

- Proper identification
- Immunization records
- Medications
- Ample supply of food and water
- Leash and muzzle
- A picture of your pet
- Carrier

## Check Insurance Before Hurricanes Threaten

- Check your homeowner's policy to make sure it contains flood and wind coverage.
- Review coverage limits on your home and valuables to make sure they are fully covered.
- Determine whether the policy will pay for additional living expenses to cover the cost of hotel rooms and meals if necessary.
- Record an inventory of all personal belongings.

## Storm Terminology to Remember



**Hurricane Watch** – An announcement that hurricane conditions are a real possibility for the area, usually within 24–48 hours.

**Hurricane Warning** – A warning that hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours. Precautionary actions should be taken immediately.



## How We Restore Your Power

**Step 1** – We focus on the biggest repairs first to restore the most Members – this means generating facilities, high-voltage transmission towers, and lines that feed distribution substations.

**Step 2** – Substations are next. A repair here can bring power to a large number of homes and businesses.

**Step 3** – Distribution three-phase lines are then checked. They carry reduced voltage electricity from the substations to towns, communities and subdivisions.

**Step 4** – Next, we check the single-phase lines which carry electricity to utility poles or underground transformers outside homes and other buildings. Critical services such as hospitals, fire and police take priority here, followed by restoration to the greatest number of consumers.

**Step 5** – Finally, the service line between your home and transformer on a nearby pole may be damaged. This may keep you in the dark while your neighbors have power. Call us if you have an outage here.



## After the Storm: Remember Safety First

- Please use common sense — electricity and water do not mix.
- Never attempt to plug in or use an electrical appliance or device while standing in water or on a damp surface.
- If water entered your home, you should have your electrical wiring inspected by a qualified electrician as quickly as possible.
- In cases where electric motors were flooded, they should be thoroughly checked by an electrician or certified repair man before reconnected to a power source.
- Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed during the time you're without electric service.
- Assume all downed power lines are energized. Beware of downed lines hidden by debris.
- Report all downed power lines immediately.
- Prevent generator back feed. Plug appliances or equipment directly into the generator. Keep the generator in an open area to reduce carbon monoxide emissions.
- Stay tuned to your local TV and radio stations for electric power restoration information.

## Hurricane Supply Kit

- ❑ Water – At least one gallon daily per person for three to seven days
- ❑ Food – Enough for each person for three to seven days
- ❑ Non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices
- ❑ Food for infants or the elderly
- ❑ Non-electric can opener
- ❑ Cooking tools/fuel
- ❑ Paper plates/plastic utensils
- ❑ Blankets/pillows, etc.
- ❑ Clothing – Seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes
- ❑ First aid kit complete with prescription drugs
- ❑ Flashlight/batteries
- ❑ Radio – Battery-operated NOAA weather
- ❑ Toiletries
- ❑ Cash – Banks and ATMs may not be open after the storm
- ❑ Keys
- ❑ Important documents – Including insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security cards, etc. Be sure to store these items in a waterproof container.
- ❑ Tools
- ❑ Full tanks of gas in vehicles
- ❑ Toys, books and games

