



Hurricane Watch



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Safety is the focus of hurricane checklist

Here's a list of the many things to consider before, during and after a hurricane.

Some of the safety rules will make things easier for you during a hurricane. All are important and could help save your life and the lives of others.

When a hurricane threatens the area, you will have to make the decision whether to evacuate or to ride out the storm out at home. If authorities recommend evacuation, you should leave. Their advice is based on the strength of the storm and its potential for death and destruction.

The National Weather Service advises that, in general, you should plan to leave if you live on the coast or an offshore island, if you live in a mobile home or if you live near a river or in a flood plain.

If you live on high ground, away from coastal beaches, you should consider staying.

You should know the storm surge history and elevation of your area and safe routes inland. You should know the location of official evacuation shelters.

Trim dead wood from trees in your yard. Check for loose rain gutters and down spouts. And, if shutters do protect windows, stock boards to cover glass.

When a Hurricane Watch is issued you should:

- Check often for official bulletins on radio, television, or National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio.
- Fuel your car.
- Check mobile home tiedowns.
- Moor small craft or move to safe shelter.
- Stock up on canned goods.
- Check supplies of special medicines and drugs.
- Check batteries for radio and flashlights.
- Secure lawn furniture and other loose material outdoors.
- Tape, board or shutter windows to prevent shattering.
- Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent their lifting from their tracks.

When a Hurricane Warning is issued for the area and your home is sturdy and on high ground, you should:

- Stay tuned to radio, television or the weather radio for official bulletins.
- Board up garage and porch doors.
- Move valuables to upper floors.
- Bring in pets.
- Fill containers, including bathtub, with several days supply of drinking water.
- Turn up refrigerator to maximum cold and do not open unless necessary.
- Use phone only for emergencies.
- Stay indoors on the downwind side of the house, away from windows.
- Beware the eye of the hurricane.

If you live in a mobile home or in an area which might be affected by the storm tide or stream flooding, you should leave when a Hurricane Warning is issued. Before evacuating, do the following:

- Plan to leave early, in daylight if possible.
- Shut off water and electricity at main stations.
- Take small valuables and papers, but travel light.
- Leave food and water for pets. Shelters will not take them.
- Lock your house.
- Drive carefully to nearest designated shelter, using recommended evacuation routes.

When the "all-clear" is given, you should do the following:

- Drive carefully, watching for dangling electrical wires, undermined roads and flooded low spots.
- Drive only where necessary and avoid sight-seeing.
- Report broken or damaged water, sewer and electrical lines.
- Use caution re-entering your home. Check for gas leaks and check food and water for spoilage or contamination.

Items to stockpile before storms hit

Households should have the following items in storage in preparation for the hurricane season:

- Drinking water (at least 7 gallons per person)
- Battery-operated TV, radio
- Battery-operated clock
- Spare batteries
- Manual can opener
- Flashlights
- Waterproof matches
- Toilet paper
- Cash (ATMs may not work after the storm)
- Sunscreen
- Bleach
- Water purification tablets
- Soap and detergent
- Rain gear
- Charcoal, lighter fluid
- Disposable plates, glasses and utensils
- Baby supplies (if necessary)
- Ice chest, ice
- Valuable papers (put in waterproof bag or container)
- Extra supply of medicine
- Non-perishable food: Canned meats (Spam, chicken, ham), fish (tuna, sardines); canned soups, dried fruits, cereal, crackers, cookies, coffee and tea, peanut butter and jelly, pudding, powdered or evaporated milk, prepared foods such as canned spaghetti, soup, stew, chili.
- Pet food



Hurricane Evacuation Tips at a Glance

- Following are tips in case you need to evacuate your home because of a storm:
- Stay alert to storm advisories. Evacuate if told to do so.
- Map out your route, using roads specified by local authorities.
- Do not get on the road without a place to go.
- Fill your car with gasoline.
- Before a storm threatens, contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.
- Secure your home before leaving. Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors.
- Get cash. After a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.
- Notify family and friends of your plans.
- If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county.
- Next try a motel or hotel, and as a last resort, go to a public shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets.

Before you switch on the lights, we've already put up the poles, connected miles of wire and flipped more than a few switches of our own. All to make sure your life is always "on." Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

YOUR ELECTRICITY ISN'T SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY.



After a major power outage

The steps to restoring power

Step 1. Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a hurricane or tornado. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.

Step 2. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

Step 3. Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

Hurricanes and ice storms. Tornadoes and blizzards. Electric cooperative members have seen them all. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why your electric cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

This illustration explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster.

Area enlarged: Consumers themselves (not the co-op) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. Your co-op can't fix anything beyond this point. Call a licensed electrician.

Step 5. Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage here, so a service crew can repair it.

During a major outage, other cooperatives send line crews to assist with restoring power. These additional crews, as well as communications, equipment and supplies, are coordinated through the cooperatives' statewide organization.

Report your outage to the cooperative office. Employees or response services use every available phone line to receive your outage reports. Remember that a major outage can affect thousands of other members. Your cooperative appreciates your patience.

Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life support systems or poses another immediate danger. If you or a family member depend on life support, call your cooperative before an emergency arises.

Step 4. The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

DANGER!
Stay clear of fallen lines

TAKE CARE WHEN CHOOSING & USING A GENERATOR

Having a generator during power outages can be a comfort and can keep critical appliances running in your home, but if not used properly, portable generators can damage your appliances and even electrocute you or the people who are restoring power.

If you connect a portable electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house, the generator could feed back into the electrical distribution system and electrocute workers who are repairing lines. If used improperly, generators can also damage the appliances you connect.

Connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a licensed electrician. A properly installed transfer switch which does not allow the generator to feed back onto the utility's distribution system is critical if you plan on connecting the generator to your home or business. Another consideration is the size of generator you need for the equipment you want to run. Typical generator sizes for home use vary from about 8 to 14 horsepower and can handle 4,000 to 8,500 watts. Before buying a generator or connecting appliances to an existing generator, you need to consider the maximum surge rating, and the continuous power rating of the generator.

To prevent overloading, you should calculate wattage requirements carefully. Items such as televisions, toasters, lamps, hot plates and coffee makers are resistive or constant loads, and their total load can be calculated directly from the manufacturer's name plate.

Items such as refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners are reactive loads; they are controlled by motors or compressors. "Reactive loads use more current at start up. It can take as much as seven times more energy to start a motor load as it does to keep it running once the motor or compressor is turning," said Lonnie Moore, CCEC vice president of engineering and operations.

"It is important, especially with motor loads such as well pumps and compressors, that the generator is adequately sized to handle the motor starting load. Undersized generators may not start a motor or compressor and it may even damage your appliances or the generator," Moore said.

Remember, too, that you should never use a gas-powered generator inside your house or garage because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Family Disaster Plan

North Carolina has had more than its share of natural disasters and storms, including hurricanes, over the past few years. The best way to survive and endure a hurricane is to prepare for it before hand. Your North Carolina Touchstone Energy cooperatives offer the following tips to help you prepare your family for a hurricane.

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
 - Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
 - Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
 - Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
 - Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
 - Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
 - Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
 - Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
 - Monitor the radio and make sure you have plenty of batteries in case the power goes out. Replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
 - Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.
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Pet Care and Preparation

Contact your veterinarian or local humane society for more information on preparing your pets for an emergency.

BEFORE THE DISASTER

- Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Have a current photograph.
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet, and have a leash and a muzzle on hand.
- Make sure you have your pet's medications.
- Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal - carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.
- Make sure you've stored ample amount of food and water for your pet.
- Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.



DURING THE DISASTER

- Bring pets indoor well in advance of a storm - reassure them and remain calm.
- Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.
- If you go to a shelter be sure you have proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings, a carrier or cage, a leash, an ample supply of food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications, specific care instructions and news papers or trash bags for clean-up.

AFTER THE DISASTER

- Walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home. Familiar home scents and landmarks are usually altered.
- Be careful of downed power lines around your pet.
- If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring a picture of your pet.

SECURING YOUR BOAT

Long before a hurricane is approaching, boat owners along North Carolina's coasts and sounds should already have a plan to minimize the impacts of a hurricane on their vessels. The following guidelines do not ensure a boat will escape damage, but a well-planned strategy will help reduce the chances of disaster. Determine if you will trailer or haul your boat, secure it in a marina or move it to a previously identified hurricane mooring. Keep in mind the hazards hurricanes present: wind, tidal surge and wind-driven waves.

Check your insurance policies to know your responsibilities, as well as those of your marina or storage area. Gather insurance policies, registrations, inventories and other records. You may need them when you return to check on your boat.

Following are guidelines when removing your boat from the water:

Avoid exposure to wind and park away from trees.

Lash the boat to the trailer and secure the boat to a fixed object, preferably from four directions.

Remove half the air from the tires. Block the tires to prevent rolling.

Seal door openings and tape windows that may break.

Remove sails, rigging and other loose objects.

If you plan to haul your boat, be sure the marina can store and secure it quickly. Check into prearranged contracts for hauling and have an alternate plan in case the marina cannot meet the sudden demand that would be generated by an approaching hurricane.

If you are leaving your boat at the dock, do the following:

- Double all lines and protect them from chafing.
- Make sure boats will not strike a roof as water level rises.
- Make sure all cleats and winches are well secured to the boat.
- Adjust lines to accommodate unusually high or low water.
- Install fenders to protect boats from rubbing against piers, pilings and other boats.
- Cut off all electrical devices, except bilge pumps, for the duration of the storm.
- Remove all loose items (canvas, sails, dinghies, radios and cushions) and lash down everything you cannot remove.
- Seal doors, openings and tape windows that may break.
- Do not stay aboard!

If you are anchoring your boat in open water, follow these tips:

- Select a location that offers the best protection from wind and storm surge.
- Before leaving the dock, remove sails, riggings and other loose items. Lash down those items that cannot be removed. Seal all doors and openings and tape windows that may break.
- Avoid channels and tidal currents.
- Leave early for your site because of danger of high winds and strong currents. Bridges may be locked down to accommodate land traffic.
- Do not tie up to other boats.
- Practice runs should be made to determine accessibility, depth of water, location of bridges and to locate obstructions and objects on which to secure lines.
- Make sure all cleats and winches are well secured to the boat.
- Cut off all electrical devices, except bilge pumps, for the duration of the storm.
- Do not stay on board!

After the storm, you should do the following:

- Be sure it is safe to travel before you return to your boat.
- Remove any water from the boat.
- Check for damage to your boat and the marina before you leave your mooring.
- Beware of dangling wires, fuel leaks, weakened docks and bridges and objects floating in the water.
- Make a thorough check of seaworthiness and damage to your boat and of property that may have been damaged by your boat.
- Know what your liabilities are and what your insurance company's responsibilities are.



Helping You When You Need Us Most



The electric cooperatives of Eastern North Carolina

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