



HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Are you prepared?

YOUR GUIDE TO HURRICANE REDINESS

COMPLEMENTS OF



PC Electric

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children or parents are safe? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if water, gas, electricity or phone services are out?

Follow these important tips to keep you and your family safe and ready in the event of a hurricane or storm.

HAVE A FAMILY PLAN

- ➔ Know where your local shelters are located
- ➔ If you and your family are separated, have a designated location to meet
- ➔ Appoint a contact person outside of your area who may not be affected by the storm
- ➔ Keep cellphones fully charged
- ➔ If you have children in a child care facility, ask the facility about their emergency plan



In an emergency, text messages often get through even when you can't make a phone call.

GET YOUR HOME READY



1

Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.



2

Shop now for tested and approved window coverings to put up when a hurricane approaches. See flash.org.



3

Bring loose outdoor items such as patio furniture inside. They can blow around and cause damage to homes.



4

Secure all doors on your property. Remember that the garage door is usually the most vulnerable.



5

Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location.



For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit weather.gov/hurricanesafety

Emergency preparedness starts with you

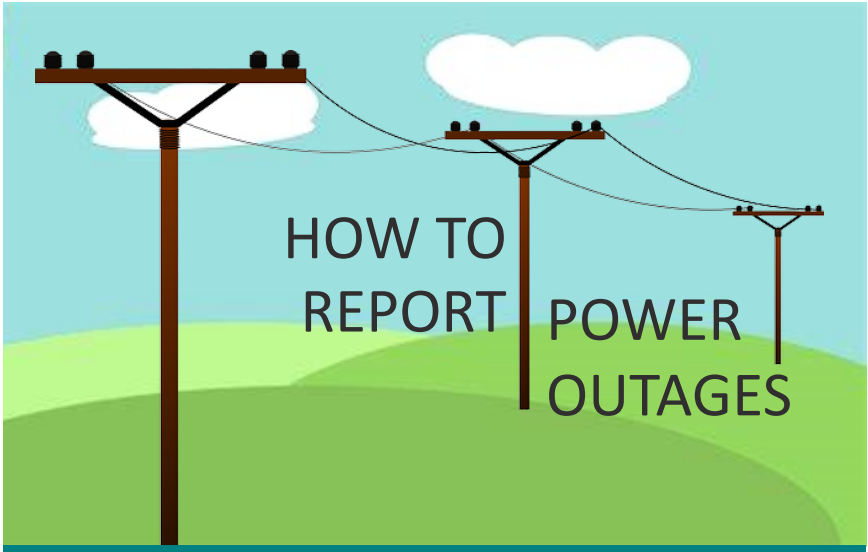
Be Prepared

build a kit



- ☐ Emergency food & drinking water
- ☐ At least one change of clothes
- ☐ Baby food, diapers & formula
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Bleach (without lemon or additives)
- ☐ Books, magazines, cards & games
- ☐ Butane lighters
- ☐ Cash & credit cards
- ☐ Camera & film
- ☐ Car keys
- ☐ Charcoal & lighter fluid
- ☐ Clock (non-electric)
- ☐ Cooler (with ice)
- ☐ Duct & masking tape
- ☐ Extension cords
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Grill or camp stove
- ☐ Heavy plastic (for roof if damaged)
- ☐ Lantern with extra fuel
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Medicines, glasses or contact lens supplies
- ☐ Mosquito repellent
- ☐ Personal identification
- ☐ Pet food
- ☐ Phone numbers of places you could go
- ☐ Plastic trash bags
- ☐ Radio (battery operated) or TV
- ☐ Rope (100 ft.)
- ☐ Sleeping bags, pillows & blankets
- ☐ Soap & Shampoo
- ☐ Sturdy shoes
- ☐ Toilet paper & towelettes
- ☐ Tool kit including hammer, crowbar, nails, saw, gloves, etc.
- ☐ Water purification tablets





HOW TO REPORT POWER OUTAGES



Call PC Electric at
225-638-3751 or
800-738-7232

Or



Report on our
website at
www.pcemc.org

Did you know that when reporting outages there are two identifying numbers on your bill that can help us locate you faster? This is your ***account number and your map location.***

Write these numbers down and put them where they can be easily found. This will help the dispatcher pinpoint the outage and give our lineworkers a detailed location to begin restoration. You can also give the dispatcher the account holder's name and the physical address of the service.

**Power outage reports will not be
accepted on any of our social media pages**



Generator Safety

Before installing your portable generator, follow all instructions in the manufacturer's written documentation, such as an operating manual, and all local building codes, especially regarding placement of the unit and safe electrical connections.



NEVER operate a generator inside your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including garages.

A generator should **only** be used as a temporary power source. **NEVER** connect generators directly to household wiring without installing a Transfer Switch. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.



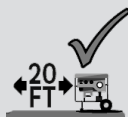
Make sure generators are properly grounded and use with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter. Only use extension cords that have a three-prong plug and are rated for the intended load. **NEVER** overload the generator.

Your home generator should be installed by a qualified electrician and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



Install battery-operated or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms (battery backup) inside the home.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide from entering the home.



Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

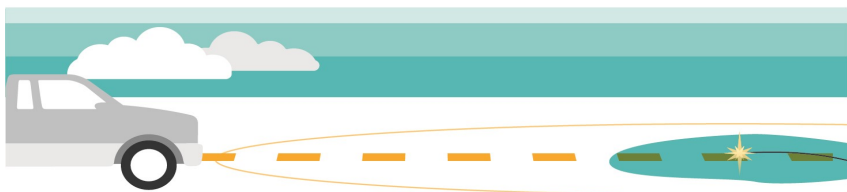
If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

Down and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away. If you see a downed powerline, keep your distance and notify local authorities (911) and PC Electric immediately.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Would you know what to do if a power line fell on your car?

Downed power lines can look relatively harmless, but don't be fooled. They likely carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. These tips can help you stay safe around downed lines.



If your vehicle comes in contact with an electric line, and it is ***not*** on fire, it is safer to remain inside the vehicle and wait for emergency personnel and electric lineworkers to arrive. Do not get out! Touching the vehicle while trying to get in or out can give electricity a hazardous path to the ground which could cause serious injury or death.

If you encounter a downed line, call 911 and PC Electric.



If you must leave your vehicle because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid making contact with the energized vehicle and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the vehicle to the earth. Then shuffle at least 40 feet away keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.

If you encounter a downed line, call 911 and PC Electric.

Keep Food Safe

Before, During and After a Storm

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage.

Before power outage



Keep refrigerator at **40° or below**. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to **0° or below**. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

During power outage

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

After power outage



Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:

Meat, poultry or seafood products

Milk, yogurt and other dairy products

Cooked or sliced produce

Eggs and egg products

Soft and shredded cheese

Opened baby formula

Dough and cooked pasta



PC Electric

Source: USDA



Don't forget about your pets!

BEFORE THE STORM: Remain calm, stay informed, and be prepared. The calmer you are, the less stressed your pet will be.

To Do List

- ✓ Get pet microchipped
- ✓ Choose an alternate caregiver
- ✓ Store Vet info in your phone
- ✓ Be prepared to evacuate
- ✓ Take photos of your pet
- ✓ Re-fill any medications
- ✓ Dog Collar, leash and ID tag

MAKE A HURRICANE KIT FOR YOUR PET



5-7 days of nonperishable pet food in a sealed container and 7 or more days of worth of bottle water for each pet



Comfort items: treats, toys, beds, blankets



Pet first aid kit and a 2 week supply of prescription pet medication

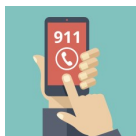


Pet Kennels, potty pads, and or cat litter and cat litter box



AFTER THE STORM: Don't lose hope if you become separated from your pet. Many rescue organizations will bring lost pets to the local vet for microchip scanning. Remain calm if your pet is injured. Use your first aid kit and call a vet.

Emergency Contact Numbers



For medical emergencies, police, or fire, dial 911



PC Electric

Call (225) 638-3751 to report power outages, emergencies or a downed power line.



Call (225) 291-4533 to reach the American Red Cross in Baton Rouge, Louisiana



PC Electric

2506 False River Drive

P.O. Box 160

New Roads, LA 70760

225-638-3751

800-738-7232

www.pcemc.org

