

Electric Safety in an Emergency Situation

What can cause an Emergency



- Weather is the number one cause for an electric emergency
 - Tropical cyclones, depression, storms, hurricanes,
 - Ice, and snow
 - Wind, rain and flooding
 - Tornadoes
- Auto accident
- Equipment failure

Basic Safety Actions



- During hurricane season monitor the tropics.
- Monitor the weather year round always looking for signs that can cause electrical outages.
- Watch vs. Warning – Know the difference.

Early Precautions



- Develop a safety plan for electrical outages.
- Meet with your utilities on an annual basis
- Test all safety equipment monthly for reliability and operation
- Implement a emergency employee operational procedure.

How do I report a power outage



- Call the local utility's customer service number
 - Report an outage
 - Report an emergency
 - Status updates
- Call your local service representative and tell him what the problem is
 - Minor outages
 - Voltage drops or line faults

Service Restoration



- Restoring electrical power is long, hot, cold, wet and sometimes dangerous
- Our company has a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan
- Every mile of our 5,000 square mile service area has been assigned to various line crews in advance.
- Restoration priorities have been set before a storm occurs.

Safety tips



- Drive with care and stay clear of low-hanging or downed power lines, and report them to your local utility.
- If rising water threatens, turn off your power at the motor control center or transformer.
- Electric current passes easily through water, so stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.
- If you smell gas, leave and call local utility from a remote location as soon as possible and remember, mobile phones can cause a spark.

Safety tips “Generator”



- Always operate a generator in accordance with manufacturer’s guidelines.
 - Never overload a generator, always stay within the power rating.
- To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, make sure the generator has proper ventilation.
 - Watch how and where you locate your generator and its exhaust
- Always use a transfer switch to isolate the generator from the main circuit, so that there will be no backfeeding.

Take Action



- **BEFORE**
 - Hurricane Season or the start of the winter season review and update your plan as needed.
- **WATCH**
 - When a watch is issued you should activate your plan.
- **WARNING**
 - When a Warning is issued you should be ready to use your plan until service has returned.