

Storm Safety

Be prepared for dangerous weather any time of the year.

IMPORTANT Web Sites and Phone Numbers:

www.redcross.org

www.scemd.org
S.C. Emergency Management Division

www.sctraffic.org or 1-888-877-9151
Traffic and road conditions

1-866-246-0133
Public Information Phone System,
Spanish available

Report Power Outages:

PowerTouch

1-866-445-5551

For more information on safety concerns, please call Palmetto Electric Cooperative at

Hampton: 803-943-2211
Hilton Head: 843-681-5551
New River: 843-208-5551
Ridgeland: 843-726-5551
Toll Free: 1-800-922-5551
www.palmetto.coop

Palmetto Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer information on the following programs and services:

Energy Efficiency and Savings

H2O Select® *Water Heater Program*
EC Home Improvement® *Loan Program*
Touchstone Energy Home® *Energy Efficiency Program*

Safety, Security and the Environment

Illuma Knight® *Security Lighting*
Surge Guard® *Surge Protection*
GOFER® *Give Oil For Energy Recovery*
Green Power *Renewable Energy Program*
Palmetto Security Systems

Payment Arrangements

Bank Draft
Levelized Billing
E-Payment

Other Services

CHAMP™ *Appliance Repair Program*

Call your local Palmetto Electric Cooperative office for additional information on any of these programs. You can also find information on our website: www.palmetto.coop

The Touchstone Energy® symbol is your assurance that we're a community-minded cooperative providing high standards of service to customers large and small.



P.O. Box 820
Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936

Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Don't let weather-related outages leave you powerless. Follow these electrical safety tips.

BEFORE

- **Locate and check your fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency supply kit.** Check with the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org for a complete listing of what your kits should include. Make sure you have nonperishable food on hand for a few days. In the winter, put aside extra blankets. Don't forget a non-electric can opener!
- **Store water.** This is handy in case of loss of water and sewer, flooding, or if water pipes freeze.
- **Have the phone numbers of evacuation destinations** or safe places to stay, as well as a road map to show alternate routes if major roads are closed or clogged.
- **Keep insurance and other vital documents** in a safe place.
- **Check to see if trees near your home need removing** or if you have any weak limbs. If trees need removing or trimming, contact a professional tree service. Also, remove items near the home that could possibly become airborne (toys, lawn or patio furniture, trash cans, etc.).
- **Have a battery-powered radio on hand.** Listen to local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information or evacuation orders.
- **In the case of a hurricane, prepare to cover all windows of your home.** If shutters have not been installed, use pre-cut plywood. Contrary to popular belief, tape does NOT prevent windows from breaking.
- **Fill your gas tank before a storm arrives,** as gas pumps do not work if electricity is out. Automatic teller machines will also be shut off if the power goes, so get some cash to have on hand.
- **Plug appliances into surge protectors** or have a system installed to help safeguard electronics and appliances from serious damage, or disconnect sensitive electronic equipment to help avoid surges.

DURING

- **If you are not told to evacuate,** stay indoors and away from windows.
- **Be aware that the calm during the hurricane "eye"** is deceptive. Once the eye passes over, winds blow from the opposite direction.
- **Stay clear of flood waters.** If you come upon a flooded road, find another, safer route.
- **Avoid using the telephone during a storm.** Electric shock is possible through phone lines (unless it's cordless). Also avoid water sources (shower, sink and bathtub) as lightning can enter a home through plumbing.
- **Remember to disconnect sensitive electronic devices** to protect them from surges that can occur during weather-related outages.

AFTER

- **Keep listening to local radio or TV stations** for instructions. If you evacuated, only return home when local officials say it is safe.
- **Use a quality flashlight and not candles for illumination,** as there may be a gas leak.
- **Leave on a single light** to alert you when electric service is restored.
- **Minimize opening freezers and refrigerators.** A fully loaded freezer can keep food frozen for up to 48 hours if the door has not been opened.
- **If your neighbor's power is restored and yours is still out,** check for a blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker in your home. Be aware that your neighbor's home could also be supplied with electricity from a different electrical supply circuit.
- **Stay clear of fallen utility lines** and avoid tree limbs and debris that could hide fallen lines. The limbs may carry electricity, especially if they are wet.
- **Do not pile debris near utility poles** or other electric devices after cleaning up outside.
- **Report all outages and downed lines immediately.** Only one call per household is needed.

Generator Safety

Portable generators are helpful in the event of a temporary power outage, but misuse can cause serious injury or death.

To protect yourself, your neighbors, and co-op line personnel, please follow these tips when using a back-up generator.

- **Before you use your generator,** thoroughly read and understand all of the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Isolate your generator from the co-op's power lines** and connect appliances directly to the generator with the appropriate size grounded three conductor electrical cords. It is recommended that you also turn off the main breaker inside the breaker panel at your home.
- **If you want to connect a generator directly through your home's wiring,** use a licensed electrician.
- **Never refuel a generator** while it is operating.
- **Provide adequate ventilation and air-cooling around the generator** to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes.
- **Do not install generator in a basement,** attached garage, or any closed area. The exhaust gases from the generator contain carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless, poisonous gas.
- **Maintain your generator engine according to the maintenance schedule** for peak performance and safety. Regularly test your generator.
- **Keep gas fresh.** If you do not plan to use your generator for up to 30 days, use a gas stabilizer.