



Storm Safety Tips & Preparedness Checklist

Practice safety with electricity

As we make safety our top priority, we ask that you do the same. This means planning for severe weather as soon as possible. Before and during hurricane season, we advise residents to follow these electrical safety guidelines:

- **Stay away from downed power lines and avoid floodwaters.** Always assume that a downed power line is energized, and move away to safety. While some energized wires spark and snap, others may not appear dangerous. Floodwaters can hide energized power lines or other hazards, or put you at risk of drowning.
- **Caution: Use portable generators safely.** DO NOT connect your portable generator to your home's circuits. Plug your appliances directly into the generator. Connecting your generator to your home's circuits may cause power to flow to outside lines, posing life-threatening danger to power restoration crews. Also, portable generators must NOT be operated near air conditioning ducts or in residences or any enclosed space (including a closed garage), where deadly carbon monoxide gases could build up.

Items you should have on hand for hurricane season

- Photo ID; crucial to carry with you in the event of an evacuation. Security (police, National Guard, etc.) may request photo ID before permitting return to homes after evacuation.
- Spare cash; crucial to have on hand during the season, as hurricanes may disable ATMs. Banks may be closed and credit/debit cards won't be accepted (nor checks) because electronic systems may be down.
- Transistor radio/ weather radio and spare batteries; this may be your only communication link after a severe storm if your power goes out.
- One or more flashlights or lanterns, spare bulbs and batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Water purification tablets or bottled water.
- Camp stove and fuel.
- Ready-to-eat food, canned or powdered beverages that require no refrigeration, and a can opener.
- Spare electric fuses, if your home uses them.
- Emergency toilet, metal or plastic pail with tight lid, plastic bags for liners, disinfectant.
- Plywood sheeting or shutters to protect windows and doors.
- Reading material, playing cards, games for children (in case evacuation to a shelter is ordered).
- A traditional corded phone; cordless phones will not work without electricity and mobile devices cannot be charged.
- Remember to plan for the elderly, infants and pets.

Power out?

- To report an outage, call 1-877-588-1010, visit tampaelectric.com/outages or text *OUT* to 35069.
- Visit our online **Outage Map** at tampaelectric.com/outagemap to monitor outages.
- **Stay informed** about your electric service by signing up for our free Power UpdatesSM at tampaelectric.com/powerupdates. We'll send texts, emails or calls right to your mobile device.