

My HOMETOWN POWER

WIREGRASS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
www.wiregrass.coop

June 2011



Be prepared THIS HURRICANE SEASON

Forecasters are predicting an above-average season of hurricane activity. Across the past 50 years, we have seen an average of 9.6 named storms per season, six of which become hurricanes. This year experts are predicting 17 named storms and 9 hurricanes.

Having a plan is the most important safety measure you and your family can take in case of a hurricane. Here are some tips:

- Decide on a place to meet and an out-of-state contact to call in case you are separated from each other.
- Put together a severe weather kit, containing food for at least three days, a non-electric can opener for canned goods, a battery-powered radio and flashlight, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, a distress flag or whistle, and blankets. Also, include any other items you might need, such as medications or diapers.
- Make plans to protect personal property. Consider investing in permanent storm shutters or marine plywood to shield windows. Make a record of personal property by taking pictures of your belongings. Bring all lawn furniture, potted plants and trash cans indoors.
- Become familiar with evacuation routes, and know how to turn off utilities. These precautions can save valuable time if you are instructed to evacuate.
- When severe weather is approaching, fill your car's gas tank every few days. Gas pumps cannot operate without electricity; if power lines are damaged, you may be unable to purchase gas in your area. Also, you will be able to avoid long lines at the pump in case of an emergency evacuation.
- Keep cell phones fully charged.



Learn more about keeping your family and property safe during hurricane season by visiting www.wiregrass.coop

CONSERVATION 101

Summer energy savings tips



Try these suggestions to help lower your home's energy use — and your electric bill, too.

- Prepare meals in a slow cooker, or use the outdoor grill.
- Take shorter showers.
- Check the setting on your water heater. If the temperature is set above 120°, lower it.
- Turn off the 'heat dry' setting on your dishwasher and let dishes air dry.
- Weather-strip, seal and caulk leaks. Check all doors and windows for drafts and fix immediately.
- Clean or replace air filters every month.
- Use ceiling fans — they will cool rooms by 4° more than the air conditioner alone.
- Keep window shades drawn and curtains closed to keep rooms much cooler.

REPORT POWER OUTAGES

Call our **Toll-Free Outage Hotline 24 / 7**
1-888-4-MY-OUTAGE



Our Outage Hotline uses Caller ID info to immediately identify your account. It is very important to keep your phone number (including cell phone numbers) updated on your WEC account for the system to work most efficiently. Call WEC at 1-800-239-4602 or go to www.wiregrass.coop to update your contact numbers.

Happy Independence Day

All WEC offices will be closed on
Monday, July 4

to allow our employees to spend time with their families.



WIREFRASS

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A PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

www.wiregrass.coop

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1-800-239-4602

Toll Free OUTAGE HOTLINE:

1-888-4-MY-OUTAGE

OR 1-888-469-6882