



HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY GUIDE

WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE STORM



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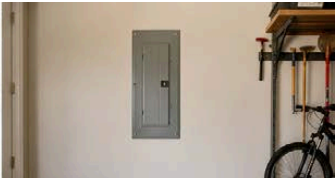
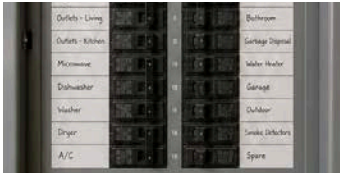
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ELECTRICAL SAFETY

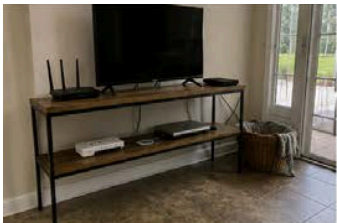
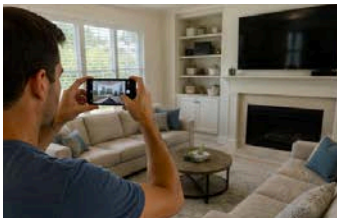
BEFORE THE STORM



PREPARE YOUR ELECTRICAL PANEL

PREP STEP	WHAT TO CHECK
 ☐ LOCATE YOUR PANEL	• Find it before storm season. • You need to know where it is before an emergency.
 ☐ KEEP ACCESS CLEAR	• At least 30 in. wide and 36 in. deep • Clear access helps you reach it safely
 ☐ LABEL BREAKERS	Label major circuits: • HVAC & Garage • Kitchen & Baths • Pool & Outdoor circuits
 ☐ CHECK GFCI AND AFCI PROTECTION	• Look for GFCI, AFCI, or dual-function breakers • Reduce shock and fire risks
 ☐ CHECK FLOOD RISK	Know if any of these may need elevation: • Electrical panel • Main service equipment • Outlets and switches • Wiring and junction boxes • HVAC, Generator, & Pool equipment
 ☐ CHECK FOR OLDER PANEL BRANDS THAT MAY NEED REPLACEMENT	Look for: • Federal Pacific, Stab-Lok, Zinsco • Other Outdated Brands
 ☐ KNOW WHEN TO SHUT OFF POWER	Never touch a panel that is: • Wet, Damaged, Smoking, or Sparking Only shut off the panel if it is: • Dry & Undamaged • Reachable without water

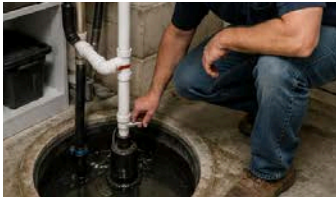
PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES AND FLOODING

PREP STEP	WHAT TO CHECK
 ☐ CHARGE DEVICES EARLY	• Charge Essentials • Phones, battery packs, radios, flashlights, and medical devices.
 ☐ KEEP BATTERY-POWERED LIGHT READY	• Place flashlights, glow sticks, or battery-powered lamps in • Bedrooms, kitchen, garage, and near the panel.
 ☐ AVOID CANDLES & FLAMMABLE MATERIALS	• Do not use candles or kerosene lamps • Battery-operated lights are safer during an outage.
 ☐ LIST BACKUP POWER NEEDS	• To choose the right generator and prevent overload • List essentials: fridge, freezer, medical devices, lights, and chargers.
 ☐ MOVE ELECTRONICS UP	• Prevent electrical hazards • Raise power strips, chargers, tools, computers, and small appliances.
 ☐ TAKE INSURANCE PHOTOS	• Document before the damage • Photograph the panel, meter, appliances, electronics, and outdoor equipment.



☐ **UNPLUG SENSITIVE ELECTRONICS**

- Reduce surge and voltage-spike damage
- Unplug TVs, computers, routers, gaming systems, and small appliances.



☐ **TEST DRAINAGE EQUIPMENT**

To reduce flooding risk:

- Test sump pumps & drainage pumps
- Backup batteries.



☐ **STORE GENERATOR FUEL SAFELY**

To reduce fire risk:

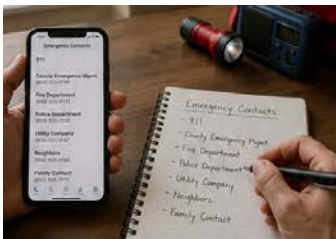
- Use approved containers
- Keep away from heat, living areas, and electrical equipment.



☐ **CHECK GENERATOR CONNECTION**

To prevent backfeeding:

- Confirm the transfer switch or interlock is ready.



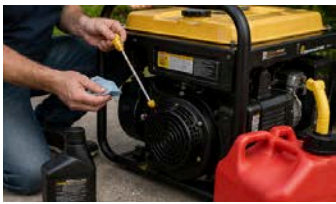
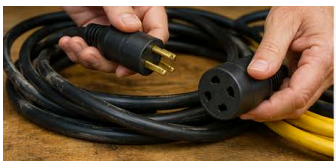
☐ **SAVE EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Keep important numbers stored safely, and not just on your phone; write them down too

- Utility, downed-line, Palmer Electric, insurance, and emergency contacts.

GENERATORS

PORTABLE GENERATORS: BEFORE THE STORM

TIP	WHAT TO CHECK
 ☐ RUN A TEST	Start the generator and let it run for about 15 minutes. Plug in a light or fan to confirm it is producing power.
 ☐ CHECK FUEL AND OIL	Store enough fuel for an extended outage, use fuel stabilizer if storing gasoline, and keep extra oil on hand.
 ☐ INSPECT CORDS AND PLUGS	Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords only. Check for frays, cracked insulation, damaged plugs, or loose connections.
 ☐ CONFIRM SAFE CONNECTION	Make sure your transfer switch or approved interlock is installed and working. Never plug a generator into a wall outlet.
 ☐ PLAN FOR WEATHER PROTECTION	Have a manufacturer-approved running cover ready so the generator can stay ventilated while reducing rain exposure.
 ☐ TEST CO ALARMS	Make sure carbon monoxide alarms work before the storm. Portable generators must stay outside and away from openings.



☐ **PICK A SAFE LOCATION**

Choose a dry, stable outdoor spot at least 20 feet from the home, with exhaust pointed away from windows, doors, and vents.



☐ **KNOW YOUR POWER NEEDS**

List essentials like the refrigerator, freezer, medical equipment, phone chargers, lights, internet equipment, or one small AC unit.



☐ **KEEP SUPPLIES TOGETHER**

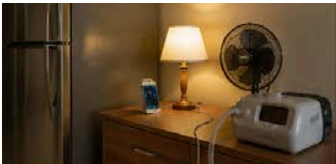
Store the owner's manual, flashlight, gloves, cords, oil, fuel stabilizer, and basic tools in one easy-to-find place.



☐ **SERVICE IT EARLY**

Handle maintenance before storm season, not when a hurricane is already on the radar.

PORTABLE GENERATORS: DURING THE STORM

TIP	WHAT TO DO
 DO NOT RUN IT DURING SEVERE WEATHER	Do not run a portable generator during a storm or hurricane.
 WAIT FOR SAFE CONDITIONS	Do not go outside to start, move, refuel, or connect a generator during active lightning, heavy rain, high winds, or flooding.
 NEVER RUN IT INDOORS	Do not run a portable generator inside your home, garage, porch, carport, shed, or any partly enclosed space.
 KEEP IT AWAY FROM WATER AND AVOID WET CONTACT	Do not place the generator near standing water or where floodwater can reach it. Do not touch the generator if your hands are wet or you are standing in water.
 DO NOT BACKFEED	Never plug the generator into a wall outlet. Use a transfer switch, approved interlock, or outdoor-rated cords.
 USE ONLY ESSENTIALS	Run only what you truly need so you do not overload the generator.
 SHUT IT DOWN IF UNSAFE	Turn it off if you smell fuel, see sparks, hear unusual sounds, or notice water near the unit.

PORTABLE GENERATOR: AFTER THE STORM

TIP	WHAT TO DO
 LOCATION	Place the generator outside, at least 20 feet from the home. Point exhaust away from windows, doors, vents, soffits, and garage openings.
 WEATHER PROTECTION	Keep it dry and on a stable surface. Use a manufacturer-approved running cover if rain protection is needed.
 AVOID OVERLOADING	Start with essentials and add loads slowly. Turn off or unplug loads before starting or stopping the generator.
 CONNECT IT SAFELY & DO NOT USE DAMAGED EQUIPMENT	Use outdoor-rated cords, a transfer switch, or an approved interlock. Never plug it into a wall outlet. Do not use the generator if it got wet, flooded, damaged, or smells like fuel.
 HANDLE FUEL SAFELY	Store gasoline in approved safety cans, away from living areas, heat sources, electrical equipment, and fuel-burning appliances.
 REFUEL THE RIGHT WAY	Turn off the generator and let the engine cool for at least 20 minutes before adding fuel.
 KEEP PEOPLE & PETS SAFE.	Keep children and pets away from the generator while it is running. Keep checking carbon monoxide alarms, especially near sleeping areas.

STANDBY GENERATORS: BEFORE THE STORM

TIP	WHAT TO CHECK
 ☐ RUN A TEST	Confirm the generator completes its normal exercise cycle and check for warning lights or error codes.
 ☐ CHECK FUEL SUPPLY	Make sure natural gas or propane service is ready and that propane tanks are adequately filled.
 ☐ CHECK BATTERY CONDITION	A weak battery can stop a standby generator from starting when you need it most.
 ☐ CONFIRM TRANSFER SWITCH OPERATION	Make sure the automatic transfer switch is working properly before storm season.
 ☐ CLEAR SPACE AROUND THE UNIT	Remove leaves, branches, mulch, patio furniture, and debris around the generator for airflow and service access.
 ☐ KNOW YOUR POWER NEEDS	Confirm which circuits or loads the generator is designed to support, including HVAC, refrigerator, medical equipment, and lighting.
 ☐ WATCH FOR ALERTS	Check the controller for warning lights, maintenance reminders, or fault messages before severe weather arrives.



☐ **KEEP RECORDS HANDY**

Save the owner's manual, warranty info, service records, and installer contact information where you can find them quickly.

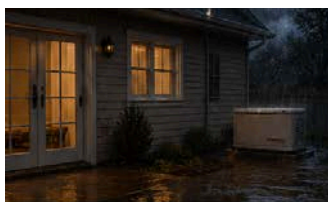


☐ **SCHEDULE SERVICE EARLY**

Have the generator inspected before hurricane season, especially if:
It has not been serviced recently
You see damage, corrosion, warning lights, or signs
There's flooding around the unit

STANDBY GENERATORS: DURING THE STORM

TIP	WHAT TO DO
 LET IT RUN AUTOMATICALLY	If the system is properly installed and maintained, let it start and transfer power on its own.
 DO NOT INSPECT DURING STORM	Do not inspect during dangerous weather. Do not go outside during lightning, flooding, or high winds to check the unit.
 WATCH FROM A SAFE PLACE	If you can see the unit safely from indoors, look for obvious issues like debris, flooding, smoke, or unusual noise.
 DO NOT RESET A FAULT IN UNSAFE CONDITIONS	If the generator from a safe place



KEEP DOORS AND WINDOWS CLOSED NEARBY

Do not open windows, doors, or garage openings near the generator exhaust.



REDUCE UNNECESSARY LOADS

Turn off nonessential circuits or appliances if the generator seems overloaded.



STAY AWAY IF FLOODING OCCURS

If floodwater reaches the generator, transfer switch, meter, or panel, do not touch anything.



CALL FOR HELP WHEN SAFE

If you notice damage, smoke, sparks, fuel smell, or flood exposure, contact a licensed electrician or generator technician once conditions are safe.

STANDBY GENERATORS: AFTER THE STORM

TIP

WHAT TO CHECK



CHECK THE AREA SAFELY

Once weather conditions are safe, look for debris, flooding, damage, smoke, fuel smell, or warning lights around the unit.



KEEP AIRFLOW CLEAR

Remove leaves, branches, mulch, patio furniture, or storm debris around the generator.



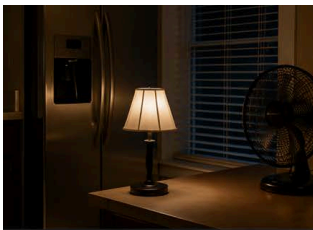
WATCH FOR FLOODING

Do not touch the generator, transfer switch, meter, or panel if floodwater reached the equipment.



AVOID MANUAL RESETS IF DAMAGED

Do not restart or reset the system if you see damage, water exposure, sparks, smoke, or error codes.



MANAGE POWER USE

Turn off nonessential loads if the generator seems strained or if only selected circuits are backed up.



KEEP EXHAUST CLEAR & CHECK CO ALARMS

Keep windows, doors, vents, soffits, and garage openings closed near the generator exhaust path.

Keep checking carbon monoxide alarms, especially near sleeping areas.



SCHEDULE SERVICE IF NEEDED

If your home flooded or the unit ran for a long outage, have a licensed electrician perform an inspection before relying on backup power again.

WHOLE-HOME SURGE PROTECTION: BEFORE THE STORM



IF YOU HAVE WHOLE-HOME SURGE PROTECTION

WHAT TO DO



HAVE A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN CONFIRM THE DEVICE IS WORKING

Surge protective devices can wear out after repeated surges.



CHECK FOR INDICATOR LIGHTS OR WARNING SIGNALS IF YOUR MODEL HAS THEM

Some units show when protection is reduced or no longer active.



CONFIRM IT IS PROPERLY MATCHED TO YOUR PANEL AND SERVICE

The wrong setup may not give your home the protection you expect.



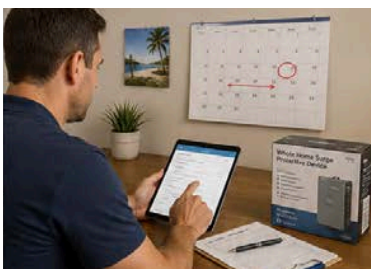
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE WHOLE-HOME SURGE PROTECTION

WHAT TO DO



CONSIDER INSTALLING A TYPE 1 OR TYPE 2 WHOLE-HOME SURGE PROTECTIVE DEVICE

It adds a first line of defense against voltage spikes.



SCHEDULE INSTALLATION BEFORE STORM SEASON

Lightning season in Central Florida can bring sudden demand for electrical work.



PAIR IT WITH PLUG-IN SURGE PROTECTORS FOR SENSITIVE ELECTRONICS

Layered protection is best for TVs, routers, computers, and smart devices.



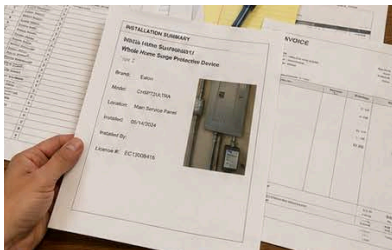
IF YOU ARE NOT SURE YOU HAVE WHOLE-HOME SURGE PROTECTION

WHAT TO DO



LOOK NEAR YOUR ELECTRICAL PANEL FOR A LABELED SURGE PROTECTIVE DEVICE

Some units are easy to miss if you do not know what they look like.



CHECK YOUR PANEL PAPERWORK OR RECENT ELECTRICAL WORK RECORDS

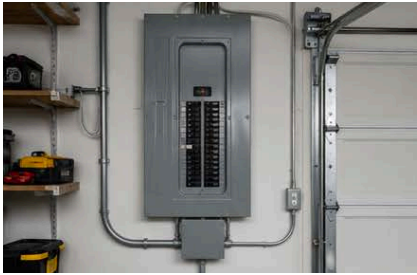
Newer panel work may have included surge protection.



ASK A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN TO VERIFY IT

A quick inspection can confirm whether you have protection and whether it still works.

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS INSPECTION

COMPONENT	WHAT TO CHECK
 ☐ OUTDOOR OUTLETS	Cracked covers, corrosion, water damage, and working GFCI protection
 ☐ EXTERIOR LIGHTING	Loose fixtures, cracked housings, or exposed wiring
 ☐ POOL EQUIPMENT	Corroded connections, loose bonding wires, and GFCI protection
 ☐ GARAGE CIRCUITS AND PANELS	Rust, missing covers, loose parts, or signs of water
 ☐ EV CHARGER	Damaged cables, exposed wiring, loose mounting, or flood exposure



**ELECTRIC
METER AND
METER BASE**

Cracks, rust, loose mounting, or separation from the wall



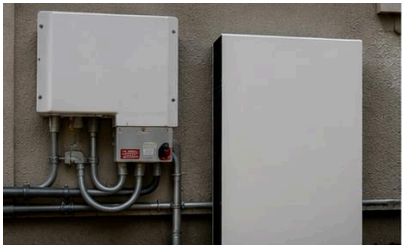
**HVAC
DISCONNECT
AND WIRING**

Rust, damaged conduit, loose covers, or exposed wires



**GENERATOR
CONNECTION**

Damage to the inlet, transfer switch, plugs, and outdoor-rated cords



**SOLAR OR
BATTERY
EQUIPMENT**

Loose conduit, damaged enclosures, debris, or visible water exposure



**WEATHERHEAD AND
SERVICE
MAST**

Bent, loose, disconnected, or damaged parts where power enters the home

⚠ IMPORTANT: Keep the inspection visual. Do not open electrical panels, climb near overhead wires, or touch equipment that is wet. Contact a licensed electrician or the utility company if you notice damage.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

DURING THE STORM



WHAT TO DO ELECTRICALLY DURING THE STORM

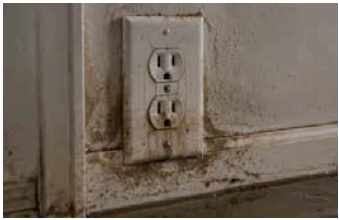
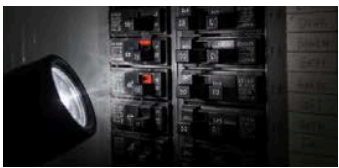
SITUATION	WHAT TO CHECK
 DURING LIGHTNING	Stay indoors and away from windows, doors, and porches
 PHONES AND ELECTRONICS	Avoid corded phones and plugged-in devices; cell phones and cordless phones are safer
 PLUMBING	Avoid sinks, showers, faucets, and other running water
 INDOOR & OUTDOOR INSPECTIONS & REPAIRS	Wait until the storm has completely passed before inspecting or repairing anything indoor or outdoor
 POWER ALREADY SHUT OFF	Leave the main breaker off until conditions are safe and no damage is visible
 POWER STILL ON	Stay away from outlets, switches, and panels near leaks or standing water
 GFCI OUTLETS	Treat GFCIs as added protection, not permission to use electricity near water

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

AFTER THE STORM



WHAT NOT TO DO OR TOUCH AFTER A STORM

HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
	FLOODED OUTLETS OR SWITCHES Do not touch or use them until inspected
	WET APPLIANCES Keep them unplugged Avoid contact
	WET ELECTRICAL PANELS Stay away Call a licensed electrician
	BREAKERS THAT KEEP TRIPPING Do not keep resetting them
	DOWNED POWER LINES Stay at least 35 feet away
	FENCES, PUDDLES, OR TREES TOUCHING LINES Treat them as energized and keep clear



**DAMAGED METER BOXES
OR EXTERIOR PANELS**

Do not touch or attempt repairs



FLOODED POOL EQUIPMENT

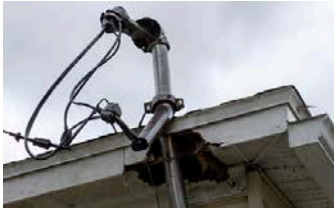
Keep everyone out of the pool until it is inspected



**BURNING SMELLS, BUZZING,
OR SPARKS**

Stay clear and call a licensed electrician

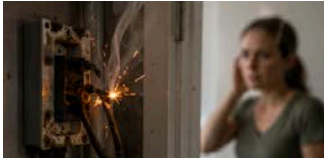
ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

AREA	WHAT TO CHECK & DO
 DOWNED POWER LINES	Downed or sagging lines and nearby debris. Stay at least 35 feet away and call the utility
 WEATHERHEAD AND SERVICE MAST	Bent, leaning, or pulled-away components. Keep clear and report visible damage
 ELECTRIC METER AND METER BASE	Cracks, loose covers, or separation from the wall. Do not touch damaged equipment



BURNING ODORS

Burnt plastic, smoke, or a fishy smell.
Avoid the area and call an electrician



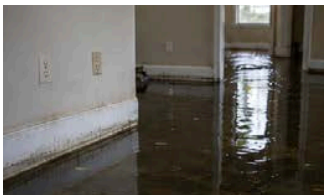
UNUSUAL SOUNDS

Buzzing, sizzling, or popping.
Do not use the affected circuit



BREAKER BOX

Tripped breakers or breakers that will not stay on.
Leave the affected breaker off and call an electrician



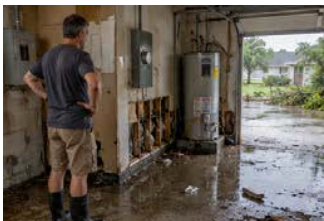
FLOODED ROOMS

Outlets, cords, or appliances in water.
Do not enter until the power is confirmed off



WATER-DAMAGED APPLIANCES

Wet plugs, cords, electronics, or motors.
Do not plug them in until inspected

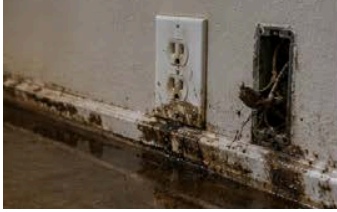
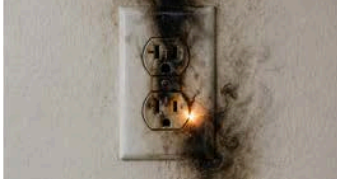


UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS

Any damage you cannot safely identify.
Call a licensed electrician before restoring power

⚠ IMPORTANT: Do not touch the main breaker, meter, panel, or other electrical equipment if the area is wet or damaged. When in doubt, leave the power off and get professional help.

WHEN TO CALL A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN AFTER A HURRICANE OR TROPICAL STORM

WARNING SIGN	WHAT TO DO
 A close-up photograph of a wall outlet and adjacent wiring that has been severely damaged by water. The area is dark, wet, and shows signs of corrosion and mold.	FLOODED OUTLETS OR WIRING Keep the power off and avoid contact
 A photograph of an electrical panel that has been exposed to water. The metal components are heavily rusted, and the internal wiring is visible and damaged.	WATER-DAMAGED ELECTRICAL PANEL Do not open or reset it
 A photograph of an electrical panel with several circuit breakers. One breaker is in the 'off' position, and there are signs of overheating or discoloration around it.	BREAKERS THAT KEEP TRIPPING Leave the affected circuit off
 A photograph of a room with a ceiling fan and a lamp. The lights are flickering, and the room appears dimly lit.	FLICKERING LIGHTS Stop using the affected circuit
 A photograph of a wall outlet with a bright orange glow emanating from it, indicating a fire or severe electrical fault. There is smoke or soot visible around the outlet.	BURNING SMELLS, BUZZING, OR SPARKS Stay clear and call immediately
 A photograph of a hand holding a yellow non-contact temperature gun, pointing it at a wall outlet. The device's display shows a temperature reading, indicating the outlet is abnormally warm.	WARM OUTLETS OR SWITCHES Stop using them



DAMAGED EXTERIOR WIRING

Keep away and do not attempt repairs



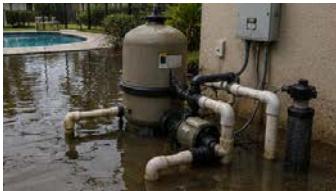
GENERATOR CONNECTION CONCERNS

Get professional help before connecting it



POSSIBLE SURGE DAMAGE

Have appliances and electronics inspected



FLOODED POOL EQUIPMENT

Keep everyone out of the pool until it is checked

 **BE PREPARED. STAY SAFE. PROTECT WHAT MATTERS.**

HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY GUIDE

— **FOR FLORIDA HOMEOWNERS** 

**WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING,
AND AFTER THE STORM**



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