HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY
Eyeing the Storm

The Atlantic hurricane season is June to November, with the peak season from mid-August to late October.

On average there are six hurricanes, three of which are categorized as “major”, each year. History provides important examples of the potentially dangerous impact hurricanes can have and the need to be prepared.

PREPARE FOR THE STORM

Charge all phones and communication devices.

Unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible.

If recommended by utilities or emergency officials, turn off breakers to avoid power surges.

WEATHER THE STORM

Stay indoors during hurricanes and away from windows and glass.

Never operate a portable generator inside your home.

Never connect a generator directly into your homes wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed.

Always use GFCIs in areas where water and electricity may come in contact.

RECOVER FROM THE STORM

Do not use electrical equipment and electronics, including receptacles, that have been submerged in water.

Have a qualified electrician inspect any water damaged electrical equipment and electronics.

Stay away from downed power lines. If you encounter a downed power line, stay at least 35 feet away and do not touch the line or anything that may be in contact with the line.

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1
74-95 MPH Winds
Some Damage

Potential roof damage.

Large tree branches may snap, shallow-rooted trees may fall.

Damage to utility poles and power lines. Outages may last few to several days.

CATEGORY 2
96-110 MPH Winds
Extensive Damage

Potential major roof damage.

Shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or unrooted.

Power outages for several days to weeks.

CATEGORY 3
111-129 MPH Winds
Devastating Damage

Major home damage.

Many trees will be snapped or unrooted.

Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks.

CATEGORY 4
130-156 MPH Winds
Catastrophic Damage

Severe home damage.

Most trees will be snapped or unrooted and utility poles downed.

Power outages for weeks to possibly months.

CATEGORY 5
>156 MPH Winds
Catastrophic Damage

High percentage of framed homes will be destroyed.

Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.

Power outages for weeks to possibly months.

According to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, homes built to modern building codes fare much better than homes built to older codes. Make sure your home is up to code.

ESFI Additional severe weather safety information is available at www.esfi.org.

www.facebook.com/ESFI.org  www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg  www.youtube.com/user/esfidotorg