

PREPARATION GUIDE

Hurricanes

Each year, the Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The peak of hurricane season is September 10; most activity takes place between mid-August and mid-October. Following Hurricane Helene, our region is more attuned to the impact a hurricane can have on a community.

In preparation for the height of hurricane season, we've created this guide to share key hurricane-related information, how to prepare for a hurricane, and what to do following a hurricane.

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Need to Know

Watches & Warnings

Hurricane Watch

A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions are possible with wind speed reaching hurricane levels within the next 48 hours. You should begin preparing for a potential hurricane and follow the storm's progress.

Hurricane Warning

A hurricane warning means that hurricane conditions are expected with wind speeds reaching hurricane levels within the next 36 hours. You should finalize any storm preparations and follow guidance from local officials.

Types of Tropical Cyclones

A tropical cyclone is a rotating system of concentrated thunderstorms and clouds that originates over water. All hurricanes are tropical cyclones; not all tropical cyclones are hurricanes. The level of intensity is determined by wind speed.

Tropical Depression

A tropical depression is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds of 38 mph or less.

Tropical Storm

A tropical storm is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph.

Hurricane

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater.

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Need to Know

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

A hurricane's category is based on its sustained wind speed, ranging from category 1 to category 5. This metric is known as the "Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale." Using this scale, we can also estimate potential property damage.

Category 1	74-95 MPH Winds Impact: Some damage to roofs, siding, gutters, trees, and loose items. Power Outages: Can last several days.
Category 2	96-110 MPH Winds Impact: More extensive damage to structures including roofs, doors, and windows. Newly rooted trees will break or be uprooted, resulting in road blockages. Power Outages: Can last several days or longer.
Category 3	111-129 MPH Winds Impact: Increased structural damage to buildings; mobile homes can be destroyed entirely. Trees will snap and be uprooted with road blockages expected. Power Outages: Can last weeks.
Category 4	130-156 MPH Winds Impact: Major structural damages including wall failures and roof collapses. Most trees will snap or be uprooted, along with many downed power poles. Power Outages: Can last weeks to months.
Category 5	157+ MPH Winds Impact: Catastrophic damage with smaller buildings blown away and most structures experiencing wall and roof failure. Areas are uninhabitable for weeks to months. Power Outages: Can last months.

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Before a Hurricane

Walk Outside

Locate and store any loose items that could become airborne in high winds, including outdoor furniture and garbage bins. Anchor gas grills and propane tanks.

Stash Some Supplies

Gather a supply kit with non-perishable food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, important documents, and first aid supplies.

Plan for Pets

Make sure you have enough food, water, and medication for your pets.

Prep Power Alternates

Have a way to charge your cell phone such as a charged power bank.

Protect Your Home

Reinforce windows as necessary and secure all doors – especially garage doors.

Park the Car

Move your car inside a garage or to another secure location where it can best avoid potential damage.

Identify a Safe Place

If you are not asked to evacuate, identify a place in your home that offers the most protection: interior, windowless rooms on the lowest level that is not likely to flood are recommended.

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After a Hurricane

Stay Clear

Assume that all downed lines are fully energized - stay away and alert ECU.

Use Generators Safely

If you have a gas generator for backup power, make sure you use it safely to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Shut the Fridge

If the doors stay closed, food in your refrigerator will stay safe for about four hours. Food in your freezer will stay safe for 24-48 hours depending on how full it is; the fuller the better.

Avoid Driving

Only drive if it is necessary and if you do drive, exercise extreme caution and drive slowly to allow for flooding, downed power lines, and fallen trees.

Evaluate Damages

Take photos of any damage to your home or property to document the impact of the storm and for insurance purposes.

Be a Good Neighbor

As you clean up around your home, offer to help others if you are able. Practice tool safety and stay hydrated.

Stay Informed

Follow local news coverage, tune into social media channels, and listen to local radio stations for updates (depending on the severity, some of these outlets may not be available).

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How to Contact ECU

In the event of a hurricane, we want to be able to receive information from you regarding outages - and to be able to communicate with you and share as much information as possible.

Keep in mind that depending on the severity of the hurricane, all of these communication channels may not be available. Our website and social media channels will provide the most current information available in an emergency situation.

Phone

1-864-859-4013

Email

customerservice@easleyutilities.com

SmartHub

Report an outage 24/7 with the SmartHub app.

Social Media

Message us via Facebook or Instagram @easleycombinedutilities.