

Hurricane Season Safety Tips From ESFI

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

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EINPresswire.com/ -- The Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, has begun, and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is releasing tips to help you prepare for hurricanes and severe storms. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting an above-average season with a possibility of six to ten hurricanes, three to six of which may be major. Consumers should be aware of the electrical dangers associated with severe storms and the resulting floods and power outages.

ESFI is offering consumers important advice about how to help prevent electrically related deaths, injuries, and property loss by taking the following precautions during and after severe storms and other natural disasters:

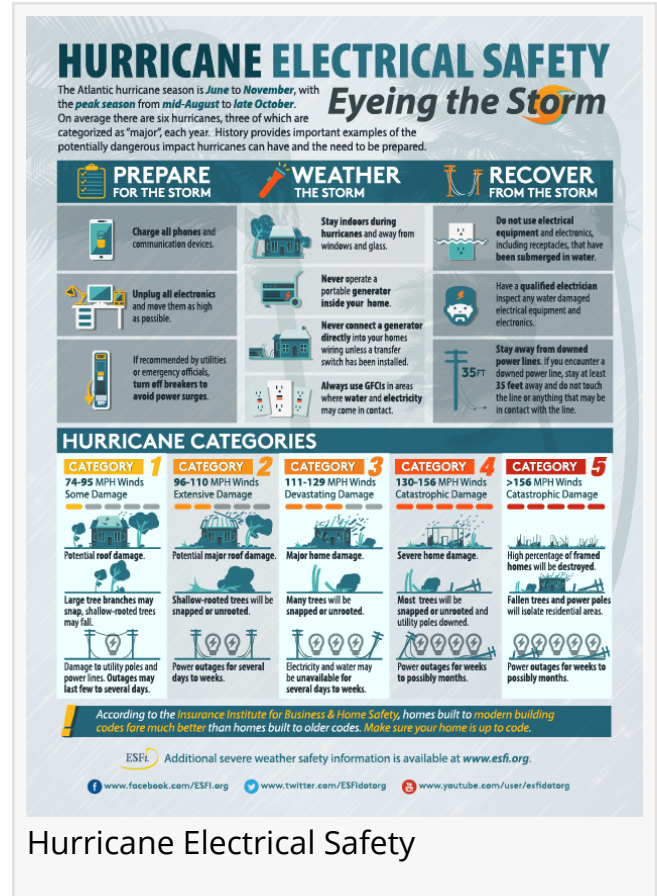
[Hurricane and Severe Storm Safety Tips](#)

Prepare for the storm

- Charge all phones and communications devices
- Unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible
- If recommended by utilities or emergency offices, 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 home's wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed
- Always use GFCIs in areas where water and electricity may come in contact


















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	WEATHER THE STORM	RECOVER FROM THE STORM
 Charge all phones and communication devices.	 Stay indoors during hurricanes and away from windows and glass.	 Do not use electrical equipment and electronics, including receptacles, that have been submerged in water.
 Unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible.	 Never operate a portable generator inside your home.	 Have a qualified electrician inspect any water damaged electrical equipment and electronics.
 If recommended by utilities or emergency officials, turn off breakers to avoid power surges.	 Never connect a generator directly into your home's wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed.	 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	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3	CATEGORY 4	CATEGORY 5
74-95 MPH Winds Some Damage	96-110 MPH Winds Extensive Damage	111-129 MPH Winds Devastating Damage	130-156 MPH Winds Catastrophic Damage	>156 MPH Winds Catastrophic Damage
 Potential roof damage.	 Potential major roof damage.	 Major home damage.	 Severe home damage.	 High percentage of framed homes will be destroyed.
 Large tree branches may snap, shallow-rooted trees may fall.	 Shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted.	 Many trees will be snapped or uprooted.	 Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and utility poles downed.	 Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.
 Damage to utility poles and power lines. Outages may last few to several days.	 Power outages for several days to weeks.	 Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks.	 Power outages for weeks to possibly months.	 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/ESFIdetorg www.youtube.com/user/esfidetorg

Hurricane Electrical Safety

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

Generator Safety Tips

Location

- Always keep generators at least 20 feet away from your home
- Never operate a generator in an enclosed space
- Keep generators away from doors, windows, and vents

Use

- Always use grounded cords and inspect cords for damage prior to use
- Keep generators dry, do not operate when wet, and refuel when cool
- Do not overload generators, and do not plug a generator directly into your home. Connect items being powered directly to the generator

Transfer Switches

- Transfer switches are the only way to safely power your home's electrical system
- Using a transfer switch prevents backfeeding. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the surrounding area and can damage your home, your neighbor's home, and injure workers trying to restore power

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention

- Improper use and installation of generators could cause CO poisoning
- Make sure your home has carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home
- If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911

Deaths and injuries during the summer months are frequently caused by post-storm electrical hazards. The high winds, extreme rains, and flooding caused by hurricanes and tornadoes present many unique dangers, so consumers should be aware of these hazards to keep themselves safe. For ESFI's complete collection of free-to-share disaster safety resources and

GENERATOR SAFETY
USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY
When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts. Learn how to use generators safely with the following tips:

GENERATORS

Location

- Always keep generators at least **20 feet** away from your home
- Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**
- Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation
- Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents
- Always **direct exhaust** away from your home

Use

- Always use **grounded** cords and inspect cords for damage prior to use
- Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used
- Always use **GFCI protection**
- Make sure to start/stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected
- Keep generators **dry**, do not operate when **wet**, and refuel when **cool**
- Do not overload** generators
- Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

TRANSFER SWITCHES

Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between **utility power or backup generator power**

Transfer switches are the only way to **safely power** your home's electrical system

Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION

Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**

CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**

Make sure your home has **carbon monoxide alarms** outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home

Symptoms of CO poisoning

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Tiredness

If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air**, do not reenter areas, and call **911**.

Please share this free resource to save lives

ESFI.org | www.facebook.com/ESFI.org | www.twitter.com/ESFIIdotorg | www.youtube.com/ESFIIdotorg

Generator Safety

information about using them in your community, visit esfi.org.

ABOUT ESFI

ESFI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety at home and the workplace. For more information and to use ESFI's free resources throughout your community, visit esfi.org.

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