

CURRENTS

JNEC's August 2022 Newsletter



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KNOW HOW TO STAY SAFE FROM LIGHTNING STRIKES

A RAINY DAY can all too quickly turn into a disaster when thunder and lightning are present. The high level of voltage in lightning is not something with which to take chances. Knowing how to stay protected in a storm is key to preventing a tragedy and costly injuries.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. The best way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to stay inside and avoid interacting with any appliances, electrical outlets and wires, cables, phone lines, water, and piping.

Preparation is also important. Listen to, watch, or download weather forecasts so that you know if there is a chance of severe weather. If there is a chance, reschedule the activity or make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops. Safe shelters are in fully enclosed buildings or in a fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle.

Open vehicles, such as convertibles, motorcycles, and golf carts, are not safe. Open structures — such as porches, gazebos, pavilions, and baseball dugouts — are not safe either.

Before the thunderstorm, turn off or unplug corded appliances, stay away from television sets, and do not depend on surge protectors to absorb a lightning strike. Turn off your air conditioner to help protect the compressor from a potential power surge and costly repairs from the storm.

Also, during the thunderstorm, do not lie on concrete floors and avoid leaning on concrete walls. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.

After a storm, wait until 30 minutes have passed without lightning or thunder before returning outside. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim.

The potential long-term effects of a lightning strike can be just as brutal as the accident itself, so take precautions. Check weather forecasts, and plan to be inside a safe shelter.

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

IF YOU ARE UNDER A HURRICANE WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY.

When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving

- Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies. <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

When a hurricane is 18-36 hours from arriving

- Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.
- Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.

When a hurricane is 6-18 hours from arriving

- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

When a hurricane is 6 hours from arriving

- If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.
- Close storm shutters, and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.

Survive DURING

- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.

Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.



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Guía para la Preparación de Huracanes

SI ESTÁ BAJO UN AVISO DE HURACÁN, ENCUENTRE REFUGIO SEGURO DE INMEDIATO.

Cuando un huracán está a 36 horas de llegar

- Encienda su televisor o radio para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Reponga su equipo de preparación para emergencias. Incluya alimentos y agua suficientes para al menos tres días, medicamentos, una linterna, pilas, dinero en efectivo y suministros de primeros auxilios. <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

Cuando un huracán está a 18-36 horas de llegar

- Marque el sitio web de su ciudad o condado para el acceso rápido de las actualizaciones de tormentas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Traiga adentro objetos sueltos y ligeros que puedan convertirse en proyectiles con vientos fuertes (por ejemplo, muebles de patio, botes de basura); sujete objetos que no son seguros para llevar adentro (por ejemplo, tanques de propano); y recorte o retire los árboles que están lo suficientemente cerca como para caer en el edificio.

Cuando un huracán está a 6-18 horas de llegar

- Encienda su televisor / radio, o visite el sitio web de su ciudad / condado cada 30 minutos para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Cargue su teléfono celular ahora para que tenga una batería llena en caso de que pierda energía.

Cuando un huracán está a 6 horas de llegar

- Si no se encuentra en un área recomendada para la evacuación, planifique quedarse en su casa o donde se encuentra y avise a sus amigos y familiares dónde se encuentra.
- Cierre las contraventanas y manténgase alejado de las ventanas. Los vidrios que vuelan de las ventanas rotas podrían dañarlo.
- Gire su refrigerador o congelador a la posición más fría y ábralos solo cuando sea necesario. Si pierde la energía, la comida durará más tiempo. Mantenga un termómetro en el refrigerador para poder verificar la temperatura de los alimentos cuando se restaure la energía.

Sobrevivir DURANTE

- Si se le indica que evacue, hágalo inmediatamente. No maneje alrededor de las barricadas.
- Si se refugia durante vientos fuertes, vaya a una habitación segura de FEMA, refugio contra tormentas ICC 500 o una habitación o pasillo pequeño e interior sin ventanas en el piso más bajo que no esté sujeto a inundaciones.
- Si queda atrapado en un edificio por inundación, vaya al nivel más alto del edificio. No suba a un ático cerrado. Usted puede quedar atrapado por las crecientes inundaciones.

Sea Seguro DESPUÉS

- Escuche a las autoridades para obtener información e instrucciones especiales.
- No toque el equipo eléctrico si está mojado o si está parado en el agua. Si es seguro hacerlo, apague la electricidad en el interruptor principal o en la caja de fusibles para evitar una descarga eléctrica.
- Evite vadearse en el agua de la inundación, que puede contener desechos peligrosos. Las líneas eléctricas subterráneas o caídas también pueden cargar el agua eléctricamente.



Stay safe on the journey
to and from school.

 Safe
Electricity.org