

# CURRENTS

## JNEC's July 2024 Newsletter



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### Beat the Peak This Summer

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer. According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that 48 percent is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners. Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), Safe Electricity offers the following:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

### FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:

1. Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day
2. Set your thermostat a few degrees higher
3. Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)
4. Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven
5. Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors
6. Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)
7. Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)
8. Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)
9. Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house
10. SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

Safe Electricity.org® Learn more at:

# 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.



# JNEC

JASPER-NEWTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# 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.



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