

CURRENTS

JNEC's June 2022 Newsletter



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MARY DID EVERYTHING RIGHT: KNOW WHAT TO DO AROUND DOWNED POWER LINES

Stay in the car or cab and call 9-1-1

April 1, 2022

Springfield, Ill. — Seventeen-year-old Mary Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house on a stormy June night, from Fargo to Kindred, N.D. Although some cars had pulled over to wait out the storm, Gehrig was close to home and she thought she could make it.

Around 25 minutes into her 30-minute drive, Gehrig turned onto the county road that would take her home. Although there was near-zero visibility due to the storm, which turned much more severe than originally forecast, she noticed two white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her path, and they were anything but small. "I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

The next thing Gehrig did was pick up her phone and call her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay where she was, remain in the car, and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a padmount transformer or other related equipment, Safe Electricity offers these safety tips:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting the vehicle is the last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.

To watch Mary's story or to learn more, go to [Safe Electricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)



RESOLVE TO SAVE ENERGY

Make a home energy resolution
and reap the benefits all year long!

Three easy ways to save energy:

1

INSTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT.

You could save an estimated \$180 annually!

2

DITCH INCANDESCENTS

Did you know incandescent bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat? Use LEDs instead.

3

REDUCE ENERGY USED FOR WATER HEATING.

Lower your water heater's temp and consider installing low-flow showerheads.

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

CONDUCT
BUSINESS ON
YOUR SCHEDULE,
24 HOURS A
DAY. THIS
SERVICE IS FAST,
CONVENIENT
AND SECURE.

my.jnec

Preparación para Huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de Junio al 30 de Noviembre.

Lista de verificación de preparación:

- ✓ Haga un Plan de Evacuación. Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas aquí: DriveTexas.org o marcando (800) 452-9292. Llame 2-1-1 para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- ✓ Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia. Asegúrese de que su dispositivo esté habilitado para recibir Alertas de Emergencia Inalámbricas (AEI).
- ✓ Prepare un estuche de Suministros de Emergencia. Aprenda cómo construir un estuche de emergencia aquí: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- ✓ Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.
- ✓ Regístrese en el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas (RAEET): <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov/> o marcando el 2-1-1 si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
 - tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un automóvil u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación
 - tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación. ** La información recolectada del Registro RAEET es confidencial **

Recursos en línea para la preparación en caso de huracanes:

Sitio web de la División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: www.tdem.texas.gov

Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: www.texasready.gov

Cruz Roja Americana: www.redcross.org

Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: www.ready.gov

Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: www.gov.texas.gov

