

# Hurricane Preparedness Tips – Electrical Power

## Before the Storm Arrives

- ▶ Check to see that flashlights, emergency generator, battery operated radios and other equipment are in working order.
- ▶ If a long interruption of electrical service poses a problem for someone's health condition, make arrangements with the County for special assistance by calling 954-357-6402 (Broward County Only).
- ▶ If you are preparing to leave your home, unplug or turn off all appliances.

## What To Do When the Storm Hits

- ▶ If you are sitting out the storm, turn off all appliances except for lights. This reduces the chance of overloading circuits when the power is restored.
- ▶ To avoid damage from power surge, unplug all power supply cords from equipment not fitted with a surge protector.
- ▶ If you are in the direct path of the storm, assume that you will be without power for quite some time.
- ▶ You should assume that all downed lines are "live" and stay away from them.

## Restoring Power After the Storm

- ▶ The power company's most immediate concerns are providing power to essential services such as emergency radios, local TV and radio stations, hospitals, utilities, public service facilities and the transportation system.
- ▶ Following a storm, crews will work to get all the main distribution lines in service, then begin block by block restoration of the lines that serve residential customers.
- ▶ Crews will work around the clock until service is restored. Be patient.
- ▶ Once service is restored, every effort will be made to keep it on, but there may be interruptions as FPL makes further repairs.

## When Should You Call FPL?

- ▶ When widespread outages are occurring due to the hurricane, do not call FPL.
- ▶ If there are downed lines or sparking lines around your yard, do call FPL.
- ▶ After the storm, if your home is the only one without power in your neighborhood, contact FPL for service. Before calling, check all circuit breakers or fuses.
- ▶ If your electric motors are running backward, call FPL to determine whether electric power phases were properly connected.

## If Your Home Was Flooded

- ▶ When approaching your home, watch for downed wires. If you see any, do not proceed -- they may be energized. Call FPL.
- ▶ If you have any doubts about your home's electrical system, call an electrician.
- ▶ Upon re-entering your home, disconnect all electrical appliances. Do not attempt to reset circuit breakers or replace fuses until all water has receded.
- ▶ Do not stand in water when operating switches, plugging in or unplugging appliances, fixing breakers or fuses.
- ▶ Be sure to wear dry clothes and rubber soled shoes and stand on something dry and non-conductive -- such as dry wooden furniture.
- ▶ Before re-plugging electrical appliances into wall sockets, be sure the appliances have been checked for water damage and all cords and other parts are dry.
- ▶ If, after plugging in an appliance, the breaker trips (or fuse blows) or you see smoke or smell a burning odor, disconnect the appliance immediately and have it checked by a qualified appliance service person.

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