

# Riding out the Storm

## WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN?



# RECNEWS

September 2023

Many of us will never forget Winter Storm Frida, and some of us remember hurricanes or tropical storms from long ago. Regardless, all of us can likely look back at a time we lost power and wished we had been more prepared.

As we enter peak Hurricane season, there is no better time to take action and prepare your family and your home for the potential of a major storm and resulting power outages.

**September is National Preparedness Month, and REC urges you to take that to heart.**

### Where to Start

Talk to your family well in advance of any potential major storm. Review evacuation plans. Do you have an alternate place to stay? Then, together begin the process of gathering essential items you might need during a long-term power outage.

Also visit [KnowYourZoneVA.org](http://KnowYourZoneVA.org) to find your correct evacuation zone.

### What to Keep on Hand



CASH



WATER



FIRST-AID  
KIT



NONPERISHABLE  
FOOD



CAN OPENER



SCAN to find  
a complete  
storm prep  
check list



### Watch? Warning? Know the Difference.

A **watch** means conditions are possible for a hurricane, tropical storm, etc. in a stated area. Experts often announce watches 48 hours before they expect major storm-related impacts to start.

A **warning** is more serious. It means dangerous conditions are expected. Experts issue these warnings 36 hours before tropical-storm-force winds are expected in the area to give people enough time to prepare for the storm.

### Downed Power Line Safety

Always stay at least 35 feet away from a downed power line and anything in contact with the downed line. Always assumed a downed line is energized. If you see someone who is in contact with a downed line, do not touch the person – you could become the next victim. Call 911 and REC at 800-552-3904 immediately.



# Clearing the Way for Power You Can Count On

## Vegetation Management Plays Critical Role

In the dead of winter or the sweltering days of summer, they roll into rights of way. (They work all the various weather days in between, too.) Their jobs are dangerous and grueling, and they often require trekking through difficult terrain and carrying specialized equipment.

But they know the work they do means that you, REC's member-owners, are less likely to experience a power outage.

REC's foresters and their critical contractor partners work together each year to keep rights of way clear and electricity flowing for you, the Cooperative's member-owners.

### Each year, the teams:

- Remove more than 25,000 hazard trees
- Clear about 1,500 miles of right of way

"REC is incredibly fortunate to have not only skilled Vegetation Management staff, but also dedicated contractors who work together to keep the lights on," said Cindy Musick, Director of Vegetation Management Services. "If you see them in your community, we hope you recognize the how vital they are to caring for the electric grid. We are so grateful for their efforts."



## Yard Project in the Works? Dig Safely with VA811

The trees and bushes are ready to go in the ground, and the bags of planting soil and mulch are nearby. All you need is a shovel, right? Not so fast! Whether you are adding trees, shrubs, fencing, a deck or tackling some other outdoor projects that require you to dig, make sure you do so safely.

- ✓ Click [VA811.com](https://va811.com) to have underground utilities marked.
- ✓ Wait at least 3 business days to have your property marked.
- ✓ Dig knowing you and your neighbors will be safe.



Put safety first:  
Visit [VA811.com](https://va811.com) today!

