

CHEC Offers Hurricane Preparedness Information

Hatteras Island residents should be prepared in advance with a detailed plan in place for extreme storms or hurricane weather on Hatteras Island. Have a detailed and practical evacuation plan ready should emergency evacuation be advised. Take into consideration that electric service may be interrupted at any time during storm conditions. Emergency services for restoration of the electricity, as well as rescue services, fire and medical services will not resume until it is safe to do so. Always stay away from downed or low hanging power lines. Report downed or low hanging power lines to CHEC. Do not approach restoration crews while they are at work. They are focused on restoring electricity and an interruption can interfere with their progress and their safety.

Evacuation

Before evacuating please:

- Turn heating/cooling systems off at the thermostat
- Leave a street-side outside light on to alert restoration crews that the power is restored
- Turn off breakers to ground floor electrical receptacles
- Remove all loose items from outdoors, including window/door screens and outdoor furniture
- Unplug electronics, lamps and appliances, including refrigerators which will need to be emptied

Following Evacuation and return to the island

- Stay away from downed/ low hanging power lines. Report their location to CHEC immediately.
- Do not restore power to receptacles or to appliances that have been wet or damaged until they are checked by a qualified electrician.
- Wait to turn on heating/cooling systems until news releases are issued from CHEC or Dare County that indicate adequate power is available on the island.

Portable Generators

Although generators can be a good source of power during emergencies, if they are improperly installed or operated, they can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. ***Back feeding generator power along power lines can electrocute anyone coming in contact with those power lines, including line crews making electrical repairs following the extreme weather.*** Do follow these generator safety precautions:

- Make sure the generator is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Extension cords used with the generator must be free of cuts, worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs.
- Do not overload the generator or electrical cords being used.

- Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to connect to the generator.
- Prior to shutting down the generator, remove electrical load and allow the generator to run for five minutes to cool down generator windings.
- **Always** shut down the generator and allow it to cool before refueling.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher of the appropriate type available near the generator.