

**WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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2023 HURRICANE TRACKING CHART

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GENERATOR SAFETY

& SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION

# Connections

WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Play it Safe Around Power Lines!

*Practice outdoor electrical safety with these simple tips*

Hazards associated with electricity outdoors primarily arise from accidental contact with overhead electric conductors. Being safe means paying attention to where power lines are located and what you are doing that might provide a pathway for electricity to travel through you to the ground.

### Overhead Dangers

One of the easiest rules to remember is to simply **look up!** To avoid electrical hazards, stay away from overhead power lines. Accidents do occur and below are typical situations.



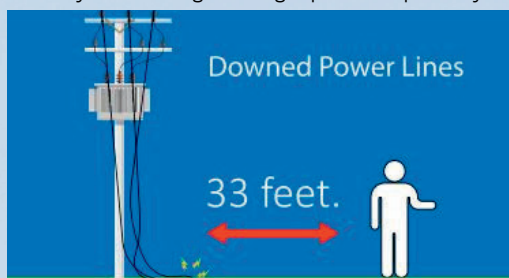
### Tree Hazards

Florida has warm winters and wet summers that promote tree growth. Trees and power lines are not a good combination. The leading cause of accidental contact with power lines is tree trimming, trees falling on power lines or children playing in trees. Common sense steps can prevent accidents:

- **Look up!** If you see a wire in the work area, don't take chances. Call WREC at 352-567-5133. We can help you assess the situation.
- Tree pruning can be dangerous. We recommend you contact a qualified arborist who is specially trained to do the job correctly and safely.
- Children should be warned not to build tree houses or play in trees with overhead power lines nearby. Remember, tree limbs contain water and can conduct electricity. Electricity can pass through a branch touching a line, shocking the victim and causing a serious injury or even electrocution.
- Metal ladders and equipment like antennas are excellent conductors of electricity. **Look up** and make sure you keep equipment at least 20 feet away from overhead lines.

### Work Near the Home

- **Always call 811 before you dig** so that underground utilities can be marked. It's the law and could prevent a dangerous accident.
- Beware of anything metal or conductive material around power lines. Keep in mind you don't actually have to touch the power line to get into trouble. Electricity can "jump" to a conductor such as a ladder if brought close to an energized power line. Keep metal objects such as aluminum ladders, tree-trimming equipment, metal antenna installation and spans of aluminum field irrigation pipe at least 20 feet away from power lines.
- Never attempt to open an underground transformer cabinet or enter an electrical substation. Stay clear of any damaged underground facilities and equipment just as you would an overhead problem.



### Work Away From the Home

- Stormy weather brings the possibility of downed power lines. If you see any downed power lines or equipment, stay at least 33 feet away and call your local WREC office.
- A downed power line doesn't have to spark to be dangerous. A power line can be dangerous even if you're not touching it. Water, metal, tree branches, concrete or other materials touching the wire can conduct electricity from a power line to you. **If you see a downed power line call 911 and your local WREC office.**

### Other Safety Tips

- If a power line falls on your car, stay in the vehicle until help arrives and the power is turned off. You should be safe as long as you remain inside the vehicle. If possible, drive your car clear of the electrical hazard. If the car cannot be moved and no life-threatening issues are present, stay in the vehicle. If you try to get out and touch the ground and the electrified car at the same time, you will complete the circuit to ground for the electricity and you could be electrocuted. This is known as touch potential. If you have to get out of the vehicle due to fire, jump clear of the car with both feet together at all times, shuffle or hop far away from the vehicle and power line.
- Kites and power lines do not mix. Warn children to never climb poles or a tree that is near wires to rescue a kite. **Call WREC at 352-567-5133 for help.**

"Safety of our employees, our Members and the general public is our main focus at WREC. We all have a responsibility to keep each other safe and healthy. Remember to LOOK UP, call before you dig and always stay clear of downed power lines."

Jamen Monbarren, WREC Safety Director

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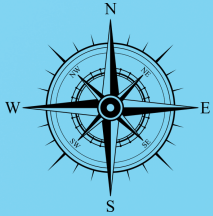


Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





**WREC 2023 HURRICANE TRACKING CHART**  
 JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 44 | NUMBER 4 | WREC.NET



**HURRICANE CATEGORIES**  
*Based on sustained wind speeds.*

Tropical DEPRESSION 38mph  
 Tropical STORM 39-73mph

**CAT 1:** 74 - 95 mph      **CAT 2:** 96 - 110 mph  
**CAT 3:** 111 - 130 mph    **CAT 4:** 131 - 155 mph  
**CAT 5:** OVER 155

After a major hurricane, there is a chance that you may not have electricity for several weeks. **In an emergency**, contact your district office at the numbers listed below. Remember, during large power outages, phone lines may be very busy for long periods of time.

**WREC OFFICES**

**PASCO COUNTY** - Billy E. Brown Corporate Center 352.567.5133 | One Pasco Center District Office: 352.588.5115  
 Bayonet Point District Office: 727.868.9465 | New Tampa/Wesley Chapel: 813.979.9732 | Land O'Lakes/Odessa: 813.972.9233  
**POLK COUNTY** - One Pasco Center District Office: 863.687.4396 | **HERNANDO COUNTY** - West Hernando District Office: 352.596.4000  
**SUMTER COUNTY** - Bushnell: 352.793.7813 | **CITRUS COUNTY** - Dunnellon: 352.489.6818 | Crystal River District Office: 352.795.4382

1. Never connect a generator directly to an electrical system unless it was properly installed by a qualified electrician and has an operable transfer switch.
2. Make sure the generator is properly grounded and that all connections are clean, dry and secure.
3. Keep the generator dry; do not use it in the rain or wet conditions. Do not use electrical equipment that has been submerged in water.
4. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never use the generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages, basements, or crawl spaces. When using outdoors, keep away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide (CO) and other gases to enter and build up in occupied spaces.
5. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool. Do not store fuel in your home and keep fuel away from living areas, flame producing and heat generating devices such as; generators, gas water heaters, cigarettes, lighters and matches.

## PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is necessary and are most commonly used during cleanup or recovery efforts following natural disasters such as hurricanes or tornadoes.



## SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION

If you are disabled and require special transportation, now is the time to contact your local Emergency Management office. Emergency Management offices are extremely busy when a storm is approaching and may not be able to provide assistance during this time. Telephone numbers and locations are listed below.

**CITRUS COUNTY - (352) 249-2700** | Chris Evans, Director of Emergency Management  
3549 Saunders Way, Lecanto, FL 34461

**HERNANDO COUNTY - (352) 754-4083** | James Coleman, Director of Emergency Management  
18900 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL 34601

**PASCO COUNTY - (727) 847-8137** | Andrew Fossa, Director of Emergency Management  
9744 Government Dr., Bldg. A, New Port Richey, FL 34654

**POLK COUNTY - (863) 298-7000** | Paul Womble, Director of Emergency Management  
1890 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880

**SUMTER COUNTY - (352) 689-4400** | David Casto, Director of Emergency Management  
7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785



### To Report An Inoperative Or Malfunctioning Street Light

Please call your local Cooperative Office, OR you may also log on to [wrec.net](http://wrec.net) and click on the Repair Street Light button, then complete and submit the Street Light Repair Request Form, or you can download the SmartHub app and request a street light repair.

CONNECTIONS is published by: Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, INC.  
David Lambert, Executive Vice-President & General Manager  
P.O. Box 278, Dade City, FL 33526-0278

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: [WREC.NET](http://WREC.NET)

Your Board of Trustees meets on the Third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Corporate Office in Dade City to conduct the business of the Cooperative and its' subsidiaries.

LEGAL NOTICE: Operation Round-Up is a Registered Trade Name for WRECares. 100% of all contributions are available for disbursement. Registration #SC-02353. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free from within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. 1-800-435-7352.

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