

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC. 

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION &
12 WAYS TO PREPARE

Connections

WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Play it Safe Around Power Lines!

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. Remember to always assume a line is energized.

Overhead Dangers

One of the easiest rules to remember is to simply look up! Be sure to avoid electrical hazards by staying 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 electrocution or a serious injury.

Working Away From the Home

- 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.**
- 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.
- 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 and stay at least 50 feet away.

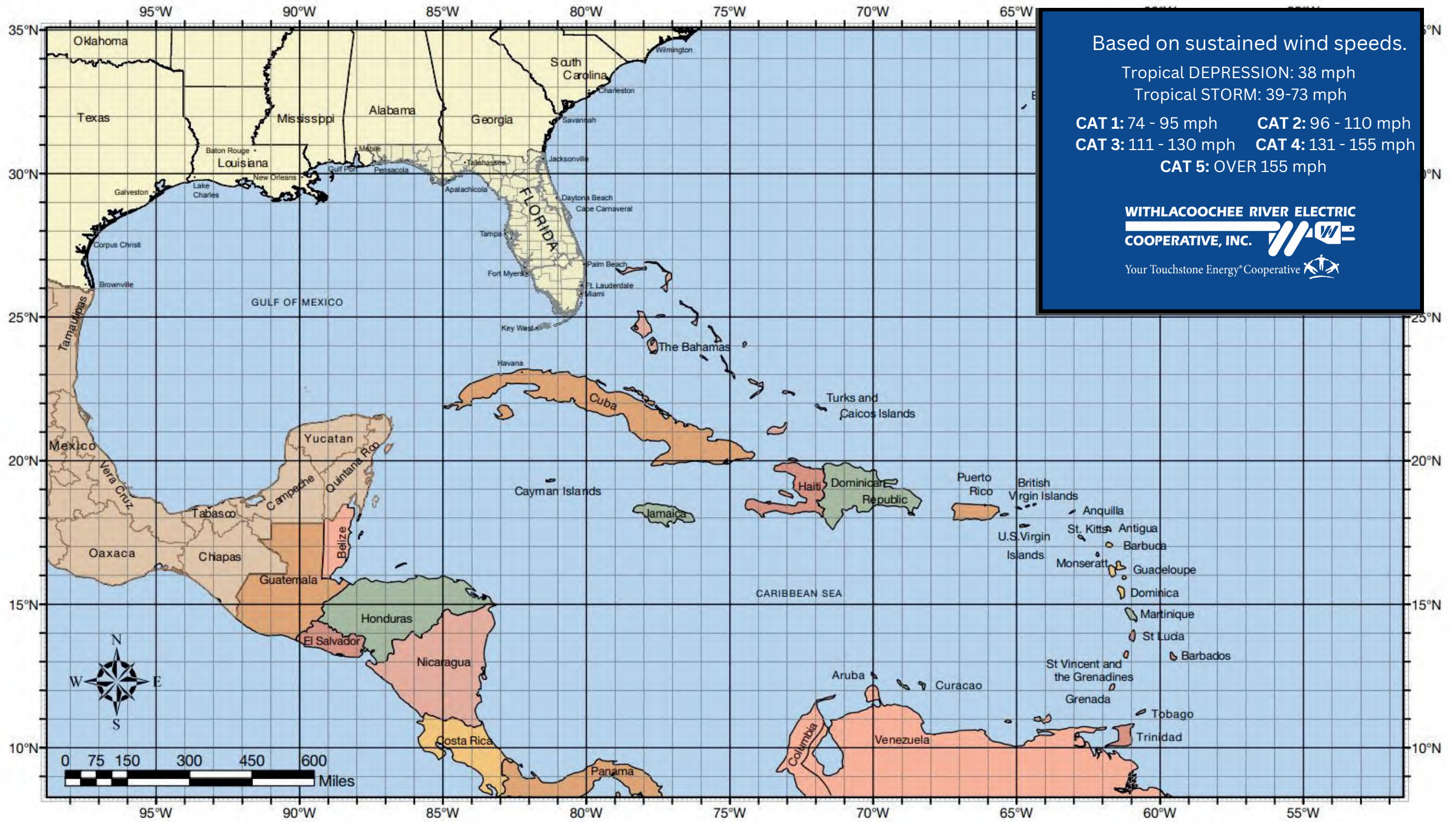
Working Near the Home

- **Always call 811 before you dig** so that underground utilities can be marked. It's the law and could prevent a dangerous accident.
- 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.
- 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 metal pipes at least 20 feet away from power lines.

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.





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 on the back. Remember, during large power outages, phone lines may be very busy for long periods of time. The most efficient way to report a power outage is through the SmartHub™ mobile app. Scan the QR code to download the app on your mobile device.



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
3549 Saunders Way, Lecanto, FL 34461

PASCO COUNTY - 727.847.8137
9744 Government Dr., Bldg. A, New Port Richey, FL 34654

HERNANDO COUNTY - 352.754.4083
18900 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL 34601

POLK COUNTY - 863.298.7000
1890 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880

SUMTER COUNTY - 352.689.4400
7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785



12 WAYS TO PREPARE

These steps include some of the most important ways to help yourself and your family increase your preparedness.

-  **Sign up for Alerts and Warnings**
-  **Make a Plan**
-  **Save for a Rainy Day**
-  **Practice Emergency Drills**
-  **Test Family Communication Plan**
-  **Safeguard Documents**
-  **Plan with Neighbors**
-  **Make Your Home Safer**
-  **Know Evacuation Routes**
-  **Assemble or Update Supplies**
-  **Get Involved in Your Community**
-  **Document and Insure Property**

To Report An Inoperative Or Malfunctioning Street Light

Please call your local Cooperative Office, OR you may also log on to 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.
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VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: 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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WREC OFFICES

PASCO: Billy E. Brown Corporate Center: 352-567-5133
Dade City, FL

One Pasco Center District Office: 352-588-5115

New Tampa/Wesley Chapel: 813-979-9732

Bayonet Point District Office: 727-868-9465

Land O' Lakes/Odessa: 813-972-9233

CITRUS: Crystal River District Office: 352-795-4382

Dunnellon: 352-489-6818

HERNANDO: West Hernando District Office: 352-596-4000

POLK: One Pasco Center District Office: 863-687-4396

SUMTER: Bushnell: 352-793-7813

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