

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative Urges Members to Prepare for Hurricane Milton

Hurricane Milton has intensified into a category 5, expected to make landfall at a category 3 in the next few days. WREC is urging all Members to take immediate action to prepare for the storm's impact on our service territories. Please have all preparations in place today for you, your family and your pets. This hurricane is expected to bring severe coastal flooding, strong winds, heavy rain, and the potential for downed trees and power lines.

We are working closely with local governments, law enforcement, and emergency operation centers throughout the storm. David Lambert, General Manager of WREC, emphasizes the importance of preparedness, "This is a dangerous storm, and we all need to be ready. Activate your personal storm plans now and adhere to any evacuation orders issued by local authorities. Evacuation orders are given for your safety, and it is crucial to follow them promptly to ensure you and your family are out of harm's way."

Our dedicated personnel and in-house contractors are ready to respond when it is safe to do so. Your cooperation and preparedness are essential in ensuring everyone's safety during this storm. We have taken several proactive measures to help with restoration, if needed. WREC is bringing in thousands of additional out-of-state crews and establishing base camp operations in strategic locations to respond more quickly and effectively to any outages or damage caused by Hurricane Milton. There are limited availability of line crews and supplies due to the devastating impacts of hurricane Helene, which can extend restoration times. These steps will help us respond more quickly and effectively to any outages or damage caused by the storm.

Please stay at least 50 feet away from downed power lines and always treat them as if they are energized. If you encounter a downed power line, report it immediately to 911 and your local WREC office. If you plan to use a generator during the storm, it is crucial to operate it safely.

Follow trusted news sources and evacuation orders from your local emergency operation centers. Remember to download the SmartHub app for the most efficient and effective way to report and monitor outages.

We are committed to keeping our Members informed as regular updates will be provided on our social media platforms and our website at wrec.net. Thank you and stay safe.

About Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC): Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving over 260,000 homes and businesses in Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Polk, and Sumter counties since 1947. WREC is dedicated to providing reliable and affordable electric services to its members while actively contributing to the communities it serves.