

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Atlantic Hurricane Season • June 1st – November 30th

Hurricane Preparedness Resources

This guide provides essential resources and steps to help you and your family prepare for hurricane season.

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative



Your local electric cooperative is dedicated to reliable service and rapid storm response. Contact us to report an electrical outage in your area.

Wrec.net
(352) 567-5133
WREC Mobile app

The Florida Division of Emergency Management



Learn about hurricane hazards, what to do when a warning is issued in your area, and how to prepare for a storm.

Floridadisaster.org

The National Hurricane Center



Follow the projected path of any active hurricane to determine if your home will be in an impacted area.

Nhc.noaa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Apply for assistance after a storm hits and learn about flood zones in your community.

Fema.gov

What You Need to Know Before the Storm

Hurricane season brings high winds, heavy rain, and potential power outages. Preparing in advance helps reduce risks and ensures your household is ready for unexpected conditions.

Assemble an emergency kit

Assemble an emergency kit that includes food, water, medical supplies, pet needs, cash, and important documents.

Know your zone and your evacuation routes

It is important to know if you live in an evacuation zone or flood-prone area.

Create a family communications plan

Make sure your family knows how to get in touch with each other if you are separated.

Secure your property

Use storm shutters or marine plywood to board up your windows. Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

Bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, and garbage cans. Use sandbags in areas that are prone to flooding, as they are an effective tool to prevent water from entering buildings.

Emergency contact

Home:

Cell:

Electric Co-op

Phone:

Homeowners Insurance

Phone:

Policy #:

Health Insurance

Phone:

Policy #:

Pharmacy

Phone:

List of Medications:

-
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-
-

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Stay prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit:



Food & Water

- Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Canned and nonperishable foods
- Manual can opener
- Two coolers (one for drinks, one for food)
- Dry pet food



Medical & Personal Care

- First aid kit
- Prescription medication
- Over-the-counter medication
- Bandages
- Hygiene items
- Soap
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen



Clothing, Comfort, Protection

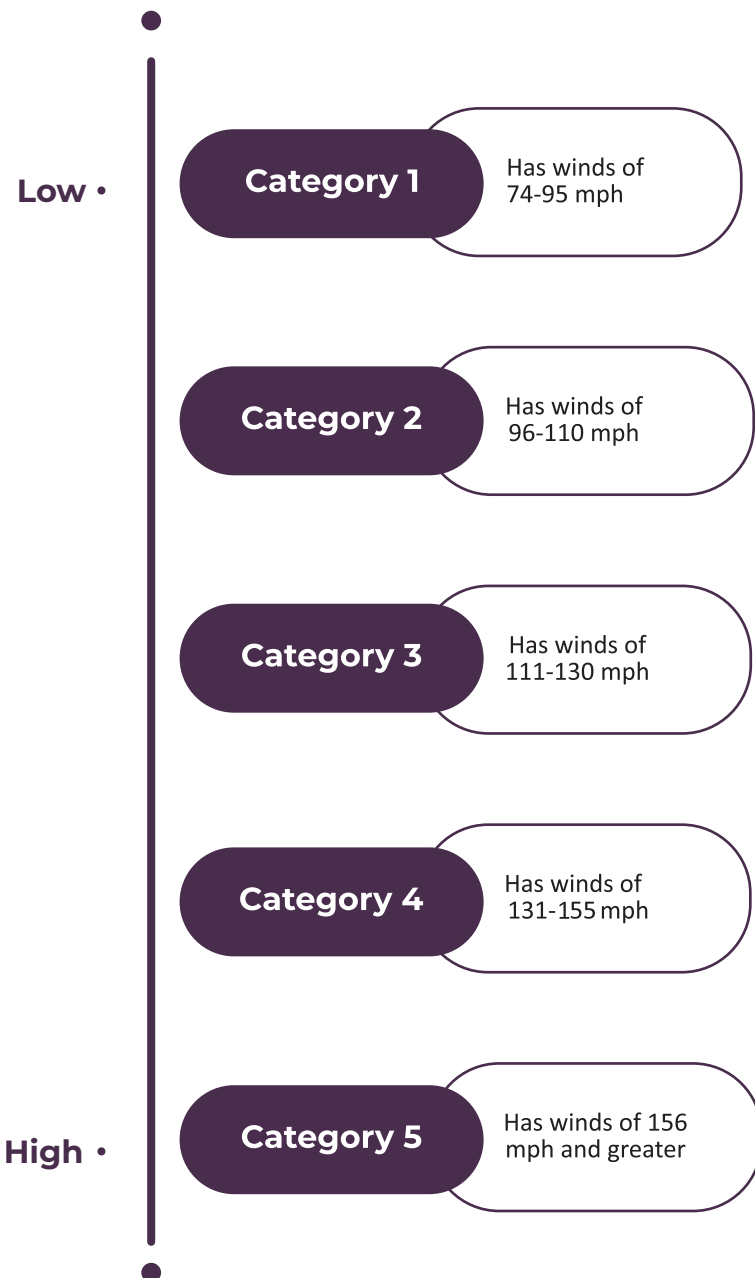
- Rain gear
- Heavy gloves
- Clean clothes
- Extra blankets and pillows
- Plastic bags



Emergency Tools & Power

- Cell phone chargers and power banks
- Flashlights and lanterns
- Battery-operated radio
- Batteries
- Matches/lighter
- Duct tape
- Gas cans
- Store important documents in a waterproof container

Hurricane Information



Hurricane Watch

- Announcement that hurricane conditions **are possible**.
- Usually issued **48 hours in advance**.
- Means you should **review plans and be prepared to act**.

Hurricane Warning

- Announcement that hurricane conditions **are expected**.
- Usually issued **36 hours in advance**.
- Means you should **complete preparations and take immediate action**.

Stay Safe During the Storm



Turn around, don't drown!

Just 6 inches of moving water can knock over an adult, and 1 foot can carry away a car.

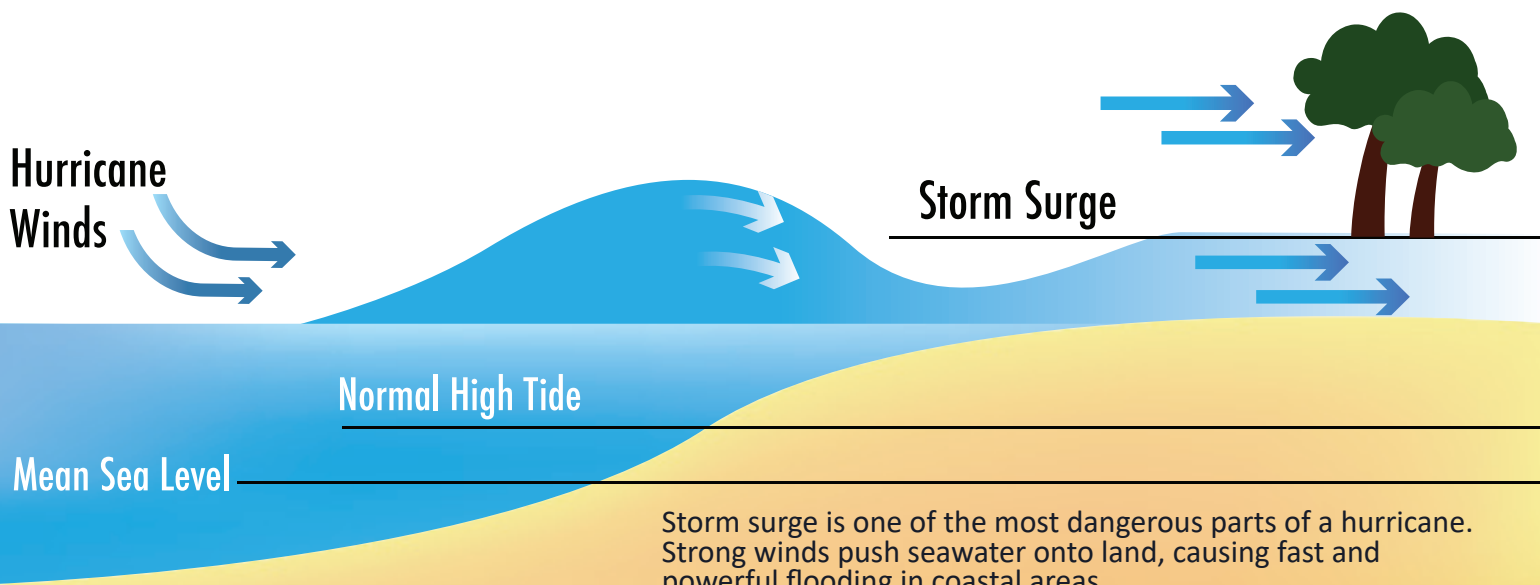
Roads and bridges may be damaged or washed out. Floodwaters can hide downed power lines, sharp debris, and other hidden dangers.

KNOW YOUR ZONE



[FLORIDADISASTER.ORG/KNOW](https://www.floridadisaster.org/know)

If you are in an evacuation zone, listen to evacuation orders from local officials. Typically Zone A is the most vulnerable and the most likely to evacuate first. Zone E is most likely to evacuate last.

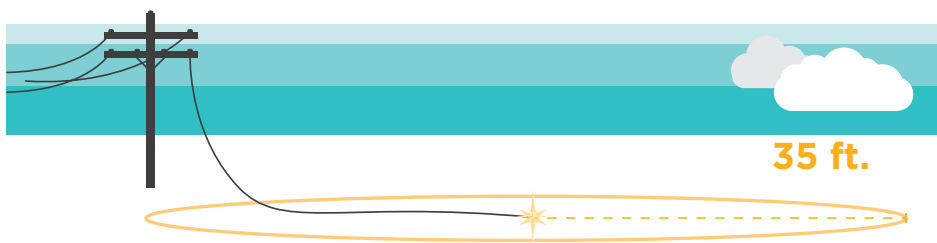


Storm surge is one of the most dangerous parts of a hurricane. Strong winds push seawater onto land, causing fast and powerful flooding in coastal areas.

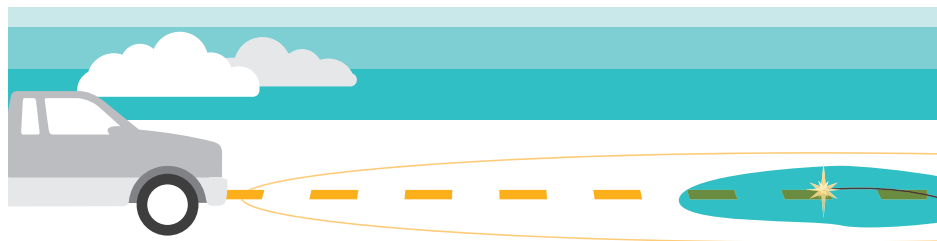
Learn more: nhc.noaa.gov/nationalsurge/

Downed and Dangerous

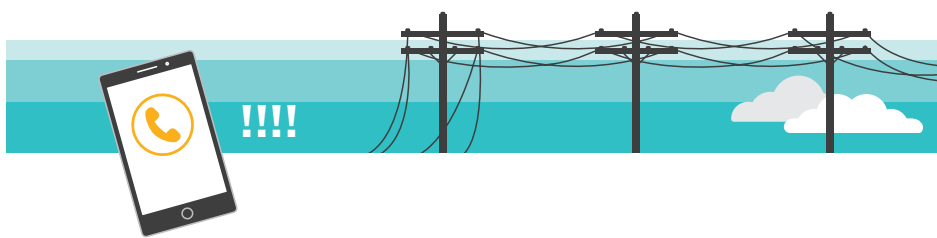
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so **keep your distance**.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, **notify the local authorities immediately**.

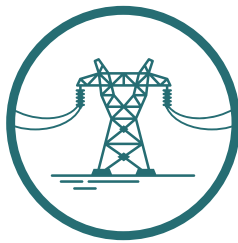
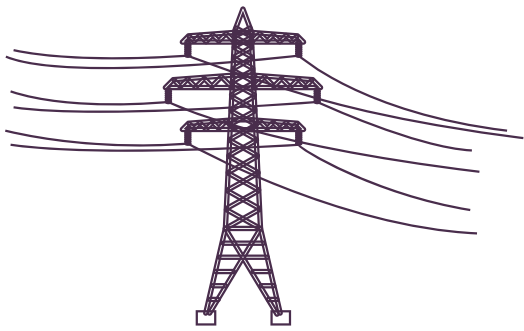


Never try to move a downed power line. Even if you think the line is de-energized or if you're using a non-conductive item, this will not prevent injury or death!

The Steps to Restoring Power

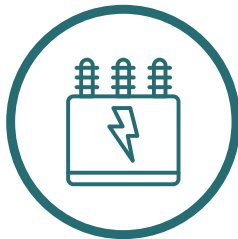
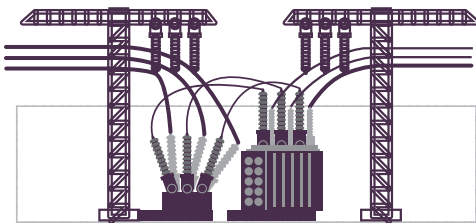
When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible, until everyone has power.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity across vast distances to distribution systems and are repaired with priority.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



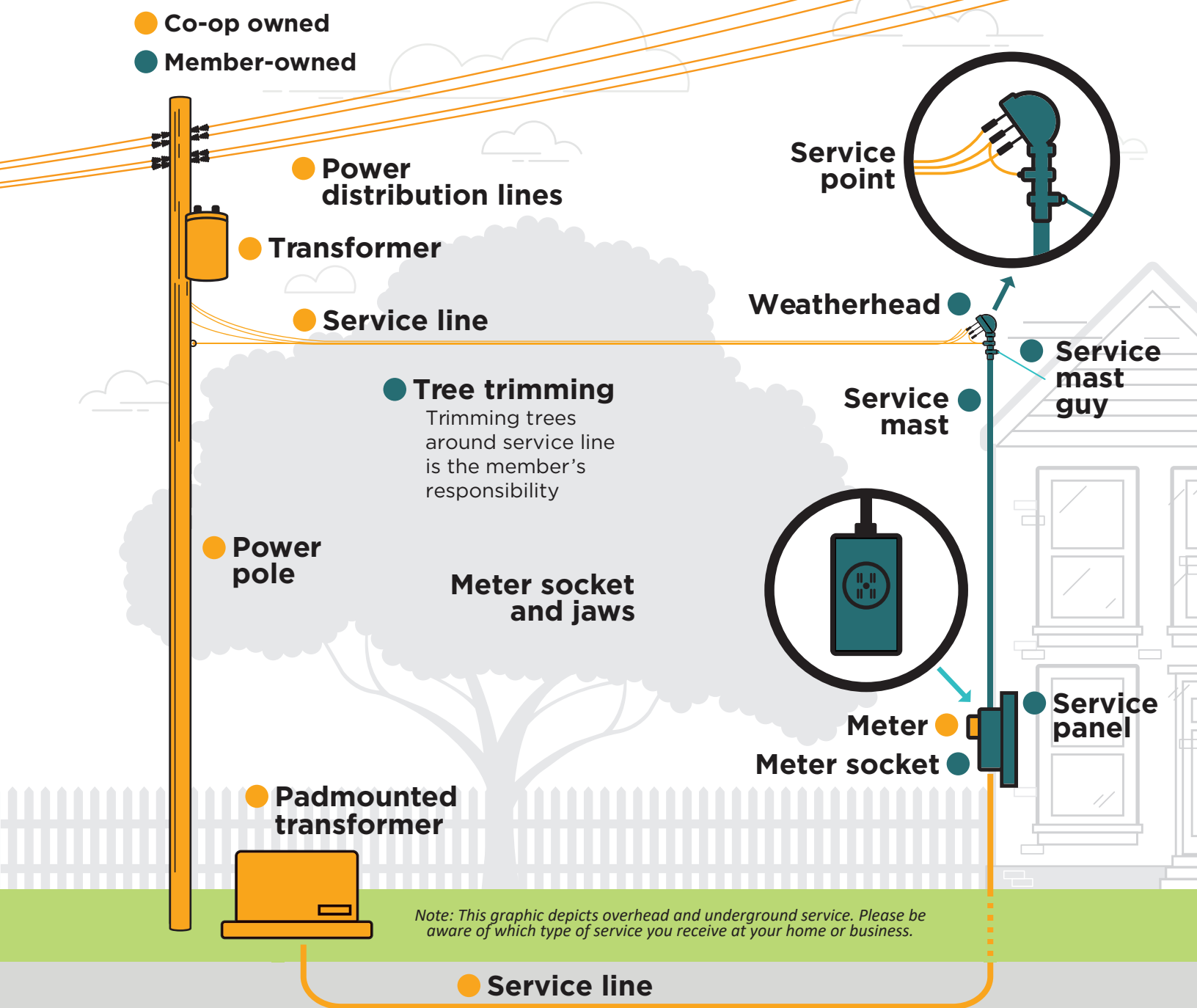
4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, your cooperative will repair lines that serve individual homes.

Who Owns What?

If your electrical components are damaged, you may be responsible for repairs. Identify your type of service connection below to learn what your responsibilities are.

You may need to complete repairs before power can be restored to your home.



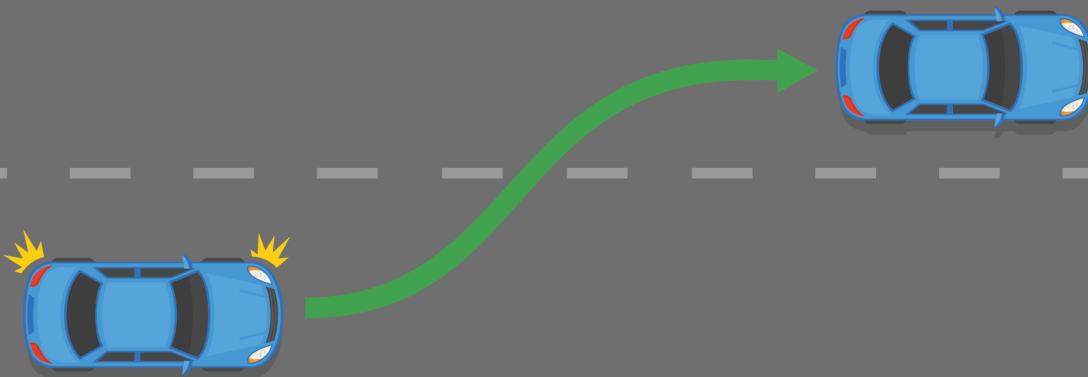
Safe Generator Operation

- Always run your generator **outside**, far from windows, doors, vents, or openings to prevent exhaust from entering your home. Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless and can be deadly within minutes. Never run a generator in a garage, even with the door open.
- If it's raining, place the generator under an **open-sided shelter**, never in an enclosed space.
- Never plug a generator directly into your home's wiring.
- Use a **transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician**, or plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Use the **correct extension cords** rated for generator use to prevent overheating.
- **Start the generator first**, then connect appliances.

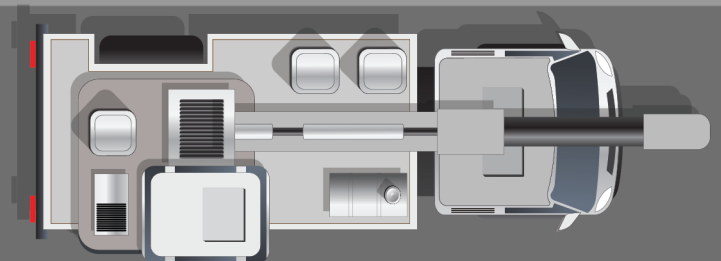


◀◀ **MOVE OVER** ▶▶

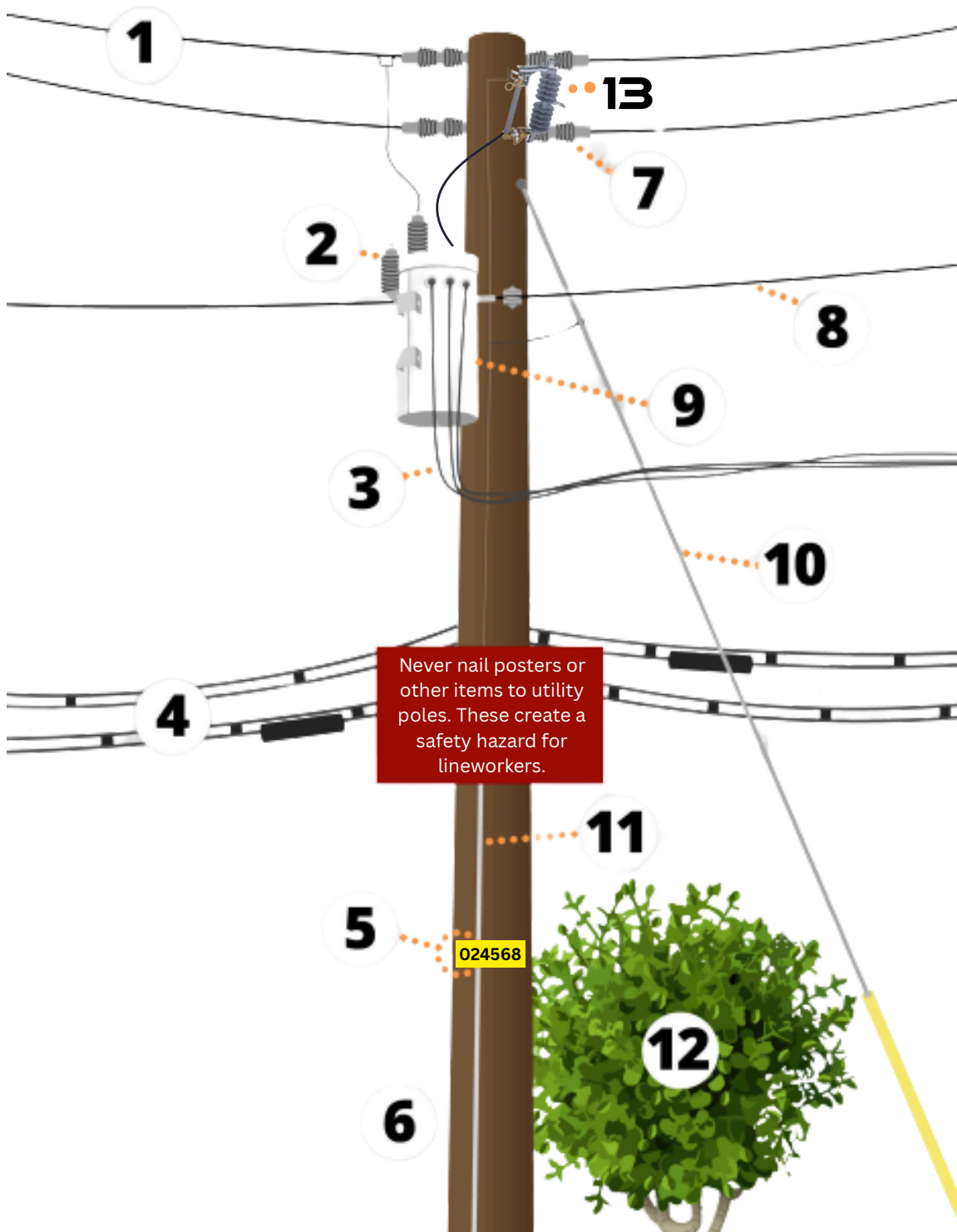
When you see emergency vehicles or utility crews working along the road, slow down and move over.



After a storm, crews are working long hours to restore power and clear debris. Giving them space helps prevent injuries and saves lives.



What's On A Pole?



- 1 **Primary wires** run on top. Each carry 14,400 volts of electricity from a substation.
- 2 **Surge arrestors** protect the transformer from lightning strikes.
- 3 A **secondary service** drop carries at least 120/240 volts of electricity to the end Member. It has two “hot” wires from the transformer, and a bare neutral wire connected to the neutral wire on the pole.
- 4 **Communication** lines are typically the lowest wires.
- 5 A head-high “**pole ID number**” is a location reference for that pole.
- 6 40-foot poles are set **six feet** into the ground. (10% of the pole + 2, so 10% of a 40-foot pole is 4 + 2 feet means 6 feet is in the ground)
- 7 **Insulators** prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.
- 8 The **neutral wire** acts as a return back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.
- 9 **Transformers** convert higher voltage electricity from primary wires to lower voltage for use by Members.
- 10 **Guy wire/Guy guards** help stabilize poles. They are connected to the pole’s ground wire.
- 11 **Pole ground wire** - running the length of the pole - connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.
- 12 The Cooperative is responsible for keeping **vegetation** around poles (and in the right-of-way) trimmed to avoid interference with the electric system.
- 13 A **fuse cutout** is a protection device that combines a fuse and a switch, used to protect equipment from overcurrent and short circuits. It works by interrupting the electrical current when a fault occurs, preventing damage to equipment and ensuring safety to personnel and the public. These are essential in overhead power distribution systems, safeguarding transformers and electrical circuits from excessive currents.

STAY CONNECTED

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