WREC WANTS YOU TO KNOW...
HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

Don’t become a victim.
In one of the most common scams, a caller may:

Pretend to be from WREC. (Your caller ID may even display WREC’s name.)

Threaten to turn off power to your home or business within an hour.

Demand immediate payment - often by a prepaid debit card.

Suspect a Scammer?
Here is what to do if the call seems suspicious:

1. Hang up immediately.
2. Call your WREC Office.
3. Call your local law enforcement.

DO NOT pay over the phone if immediate payment is demanded to avoid a disconnection. WREC will never call you and demand immediate payment.

DON’T FALL FOR THE CALL!

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 for these offices:

CITRUS COUNTY - 352.746.6555 | Capt. Dave DeCarlo, Director of Emergency Management 3549 Saunders Way, Lecanto, FL 34461

HERNANDO COUNTY - 352.754.4083 | Cecilia Patella, Director of Emergency Management 18900 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL 34601

PASCO COUNTY - 727.847.8137 | Kevin Guthrie, Director of Emergency Management 8744 Government Dr., Bldg. A, New Port Richey, FL 34654

POLK COUNTY - 863.298.7027 | Paul Womble, Director of Emergency Management 1890 Jern 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 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. Billy E. Brown, Executive V.P. and G.M. | P.O. Box 278, Dade City, Florida 33526-0278

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: wrec.net

You 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 WREC. 100% of all contributions are available for disbursement. Registration EIC 0353. 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.

The 2020 hurricane season starts June 1 and runs through November 30. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, and a more active than normal hurricane season predicted, Americans may need to prepare differently and earlier than a normal season. Between 15 - 24 storms have been forecast and researchers are saying a combination of warm sea surface temperatures and other factors could result in a rather active hurricane season. They are also watching whether El Nino or La Nina will develop. Currently, it remains neutral. A La Nina season has the tendency to harbor conditions that are more favorable for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic basin. It only takes one bad storm to have a season go into the history books, and the best way to be ready is to prepare now and think about your hurricane preparedness plan.

For more information on a disaster plan, please visit: www.floridadisaster.org

It is also important to listen for key announcements regarding any approaching storm. Different alerts and warning systems will help inform you how long you and your family will have to prepare. Throughout the year, WREC reviews its plan of action before, during, and after any storm. Below are tips you can use in order to prepare your home and family in the event of a hurricane or tropical system.

For a complete checklist, please visit: www.ready.gov/hurricane

“Special Needs” information on back page.

Before the Storm:
- Create an emergency kit and plan. Communicate the plan with your family.
- Know the elevation level of your property and if the land is prone to flooding. This will help you prepare for a possible storm surge and any tidal flooding.
- Secure your home: cover all windows with either storm shutters or boards, clear loose and clogged rain gutters, and bring all outdoor furniture and plants indoors.
- Learn your community hurricane evacuation routes.
- Have enough provisions for you, your family, pets and livestock for at least 15 days.

During the Storm:
- Listen to the radio or TV for information, if possible.
- Avoid using the phone, unless there is an emergency.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, keep the refrigerator thermostat on the coldest setting and keep the doors closed.

After the Storm:
- Keep away from low, dangling, or downed power lines and report them immediately to your local Cooperative office.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads. Watch out for fallen objects, downed power lines, and weakened walls, bridges, or sidewalks.
- NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, sheds, or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas.
**HURRICANE CATEGORIES**
Based on sustained wind speeds.

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

**Tropical DEPRESSION**: 38 mph  
**Tropical STORM**: 39 - 73 mph

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**PREPARE A BASIC STORM KIT:**
- Plastic Tote
- Light Sticks
- Tape
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Water
- Tarp Tie Downs
- Battery-Operated Lantern
- Batteries
- Garbage Bags
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Rope

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**WREC 2020 HURRICANE TRACKING CHART**

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**WREC OFFICES**

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.

- **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**

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