

# HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The Atlantic hurricane season is **June** to **November**, with the **peak season** from **mid-August** to **late October**.

On average there are six hurricanes, three of which are categorized as “major”, each year. History provides important examples of the potentially dangerous impact hurricanes can have and the need to be prepared.

## Eyeing the Storm



### PREPARE FOR THE STORM



**Charge all phones** and communication devices.



**Unplug all electronics** and move them as high as possible.



If recommended by utilities or emergency officials, **turn off breakers to avoid power surges**.



### WEATHER THE STORM



**Stay indoors during hurricanes** and away from windows and glass.



**Never operate a portable generator inside your home.**



**Never connect a generator directly** into your homes wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed.



**Always use GFCIs** in areas where **water** and **electricity** may come in contact.



### RECOVER FROM THE STORM



**Do not use electrical equipment** and electronics, including receptacles, that have **been submerged in water**.



Have a **qualified electrician** inspect any water damaged electrical equipment and electronics.



**Stay away from downed power lines.** If you encounter a downed power line, stay at least **35 feet** away and do not touch the line or anything that may be in contact with the line.

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

### CATEGORY 1

**74-95 MPH Winds**  
Some Damage



Potential roof damage.



Large tree branches may snap, shallow-rooted trees may fall.



Damage to utility poles and power lines. Outages may last few to several days.

### CATEGORY 2

**96-110 MPH Winds**  
Extensive Damage



Potential major roof damage.



Shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or unrooted.



Power outages for several days to weeks.

### CATEGORY 3

**111-129 MPH Winds**  
Devastating Damage



Major home damage.



Many trees will be snapped or unrooted.



Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks.

### CATEGORY 4

**130-156 MPH Winds**  
Catastrophic Damage



Severe home damage.



Most trees will be snapped or unrooted and utility poles downed.



Power outages for weeks to possibly months.

### CATEGORY 5

**>156 MPH Winds**  
Catastrophic Damage



High percentage of framed homes will be destroyed.



Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.



Power outages for weeks to possibly months.

According to the **Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety**, homes built to **modern building codes fare much better** than homes built to older codes. **Make sure your home is up to code.**

Please **share this free** resource to save lives



Additional severe weather safety information is available at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).



[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](https://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)



[www.twitter.com/ESFI.org](https://www.twitter.com/ESFI.org)



[www.youtube.com/user/esfidotorg](https://www.youtube.com/user/esfidotorg)