

STORM WARNING

Use these easy tips and suggestions to prepare for the hurricane season. Proper planning and preparation is the key to surviving.

Photo Courtesy of Tony Giberson, Pensacola News Journal

For more information before and after a hurricane, go to: gulfpower.com

If you have any questions about your electrical service, call 1-800-GU-POWER (225-5797). Make sure to have your account number handy.

County Emergency Management Sites

Escambia County

<http://www.escambia-emergency.com>
(850) 471-6400

Santa Rosa County

<http://www.santarosa-emergency.com>
(850) 983-5360

Okaloosa County

http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/public_safety.html
(850) 651-7560

Walton County

<http://www.co.walton.fl.us/countyec.asp>
(850) 892-8065 or 892-8066

Bay County

<http://Bcem.co.bay.fl.us>
(850) 784-4017

Washington County

<http://www.washingtonfl.com/eoc.htm>
(850) 638-6203

Holmes County

(850) 547-1112

Gulf County

<http://www.gulfcountygovernment.com>
(850) 229-9110

Jackson County

<http://www.emergencymanager.org>
(850) 526-4500

Calhoun County

<http://www.calhouncountyemergencymanagement.com>
(850) 674-8075

Whenever a tropical storm or hurricane threatens Northwest Florida, Gulf Power's primary concern is safety – both for the public and its employees – followed by the efficient restoration of power.

Our crews are ready to respond and are recognized nationally for their storm restoration efforts. Gulf Power's Emergency Management Center is a sophisticated, command center coordinating the actions of the company's 1,400 employees. These crews – as well as crews from other utilities who come to help – are staged throughout the region in advance, and are ready to assess damage as soon as it is safe to be out in the field.



Local emergency management urges residents to prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 3 to 14 days. Keep a battery-operated radio with you and a two-week supply of fresh batteries. A battery-operated radio may be the only way you will be able to receive emergency public information.

Prepare key phone numbers, account numbers and personal information and keep several laminated copies in secure locations. Be sure to include your Gulf Power account number and our phone number **(1-800-487-6937)**.



When winds reach 35 mph or flooding is significant, stay out of harm's way. At Gulf Power, we care about our employees, and we insist they too remain safe, so we suspend work in the field until conditions improve.

Stay away from downed lines, flooding and debris. Don't walk in standing water and don't venture out in the dark because you might not see a power line that

could still be energized and dangerous.

Right after a storm, we'll know if large power lines have been damaged and you're without power. Please help us keep the phone lines open by only calling Gulf Power if you need to report an emergency like a downed power line or electrical equipment that is sparking and dangerous.

If you lose power, please turn off your air conditioning system and other large appliances. Wait 15 to 30 minutes after power has been restored before turning your air conditioning system back on. This will prevent surges that could cause power to go out again.

If you plan to operate a portable generator in the event of an outage at your home, after the storm has passed, be sure to set it up outside and connect appliances directly to it.

Please do not wire your generator directly to your breaker or fuse box, because the power you generate may flow back into power lines and cause injuries.

Before you call to report an outage, check all circuit breakers or fuses to help determine if your service outage might be the result of a household problem.

Also check your meter box and the pipe that leads to it; if it is damaged, you must get a licensed electrician to make those repairs, and a city or county work inspection permit.

Gulf Power cannot repair damage to homeowners' property or turn power on until it's fixed.

If your neighborhood gets power back on a day or two after a storm – but you're still without power – then please call us with your account number and an automated system will record your outage information.

Stay tuned to local radio, TV and newspapers for specific reports on Gulf Power's progress in assessing and repairing damage to the electrical system in your area. Visit **gulfpower.com** for more customer tips, a Hurricane Q&A and storm restoration news and maps.