

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a beach during a hurricane. In the foreground, white, frothy waves are crashing onto a sandy shore. To the left, there is a pile of dark, tangled driftwood. In the background, several palm trees are visible, some of which appear to be leaning or swaying in the wind. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

2023



Nueces Electric Cooperative

HURRICANE

PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

THERE IS POWER IN PLANNING

A LETTER TO MEMBERS

HURRICANE
EVACUATION
ROUTE

A message from NEC's CEO
Varzavand "Avan" Irani



Every year at this time, South Texans brace themselves for another potentially destructive hurricane season. Hurricane season takes place from June 1 through November 30, but NEC storm restoration planning takes place year-round. These powerful cyclones can severely impact our electrical system.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before working on downed power lines. Our number one goal is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible when storms impact any part of the eight-county NEC service territory. When severe weather is predicted, NEC teams make preparations to ensure line crews and contractors are mobilized and properly equipped to respond as soon as it is safe to do so. During hurricanes, each NEC employee plays an important role in the restoration plan and has been trained to be as ready as needed.

I encourage you to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages. During prolonged outages, turning off major appliances like TV's and computers can help avert damage from a power surge to avoid overloading circuits. Planning in advance can reduce stress and anxiety in the aftermath of storms and hurricanes. I highly recommend planning today because there is power in planning. Listen to local news or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for storm and emergency updates. Check out our website, www.nueceselectric.org, and our Facebook, @Nueces Electric, for updates on power outages and more. NEC will communicate with you using automated phone calls, text messages, and emails.

Your local electric cooperative is here for you just as we have been for the past 85 years. I hope that the information in this guide proves useful to you and your family or business as you prepare to brace the upcoming hurricane season. From our co-op family to yours, I wish you a happy and safe summer.

Varzavand "Avan" Irani
Chief Executive Officer, Nueces Electric Cooperative

Varzavand J. Irani

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IF THE POWER GOES OUT

For a lot of members, NEC is the only power company that brings power to the areas they live in. With that being said we strive to act in a swift and safe manner when any outage occurs. During a storm with high winds, rain, lightning or a hurricane, it's inevitable that your power may go out. The delicate nature of power lines is not suited for all weather conditions. Although we may be conditioned to the fact that outages will occur, we deeply sympathize with members when you do lose power. We understand how frustrating this can be which is why we have line crews and dispatch on call 24/7. Our communications team is also on call to post outage alerts, updates and power restoration updates on our Facebook page. Follow us to keep up to date on the latest at NEC.



Scan here to view
our Facebook page,
[@NuecesElectric](#)

OUTAGE VIEWER



View outages 24/7 from your home, office, and cell phone. The outage viewer interfaces outage information with your dispatch personnel. As outages are repaired, the system updates to reflect the progress. You can view NEC service territory to determine how many meters are out in

your area. Each outage has a colored hexagon icon, and the color represents the severity of the outage. This technology being readily available at your fingertips is another way the co-op is able to be transparent with you. You can view how your area is affected and take into account other outages on our map.

OUTAGE TEXTING

We aim to keep communication with our members, especially during severe weather. NEC has recently introduced a new method for members to be alerted of outages. Members will be notified when their power goes out through a texting system if an active phone number is on file. Members have the option of opting out by replying "stop" or get more information by replying "help". Now members will have an exact time of power loss as well as power restoration. Members also receive an estimated time of power restoration with outage texting. NEC will continue to improve communication methods for our members to continuously fulfill our mission of providing reliable, cost-effective service in a culture where safety is a priority.

2023 HURRICANE NAMES

Hurricane names are established by the World Meteorological Organization and rotated every six years. If a storm is too deadly or costly, the name will be retired. If all names in a season are used up, then a supplemental list of new names will be used instead of the Greek alphabet.



Arlene
Bret
Cindy
Don
Emily
Franklin
Gert
Harold
Idalia
Jose
Katia
Lee
Margot
Nigel
Ophelia
Philippe
Rina
Sean
Tammy
Vince
Whitney



NOAA 2023 ATLANTIC SEASON OUTLOOK

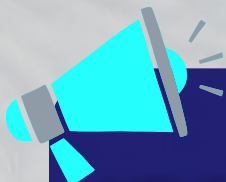
A 40% chance for a near normal 2023 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast as reported by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. Keep in mind that the season forecast is not a forecast for if or where systems will make landfall; only how active a season may be. After three consecutive El Niño hurricane seasons, NOAA scientists predict El Niño to develop this summer which may suppress hurricane activity. El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the warming of surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Winds and atmosphere are impacted by El Niño. NOAA expects 5-9 of the named storms to develop as hurricanes and has 70% confidence in these ranges. NOAA will update its seasonal outlook in early August, just prior to the peak of the season. Stay updated as the 2023 hurricane season develops by visiting www.noaa.gov so you can be prepared to keep you and your family safe.

GENERATOR SAFETY



If you plan to purchase or install a backup generator for your home, it is ideal to plug devices or appliances directly to the generator using heavy duty, outdoor extension cords. However, in some cases members ask to run their home central AC unit to the generator. In order to do this, you will need to tie in the generator with the main breaker. For the safety of line crews and your home, you must call NEC before you activate your system.

NEC requires you to have an electrician safely install a transfer switch between your meter and main breaker this way the electricity your generator produces will be isolated from the power grid. If you plug in your generator and do not have this transfer switch, you are putting line crews working to restore power at risk of electrocution due to the back feeding of electricity through your power lines. Before purchasing a generator, determine what lighting and appliances you will want to use and choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn.



NEVER USE A PORTABLE GENERATOR INDOORS

Every year, people die in incidents related to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from using portable generators. This includes inside a garage, carport, basement, crawlspace, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed areas, even with ventilation.

Opening doors and windows or using fans will **NOT** prevent CO buildup in the home. Carbon monoxide from generators can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death, but it can't be seen or smelled. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY - DO NOT DELAY!**

STORM PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

When a storm is on the way, tune into local news stations and decide whether you'll be evacuating or staying home. If evacuating, plan your route and make travel arrangements including hotel reservations. It is important to take care of your home, your pets, and your property. If you plan on staying home, use the checklist below to ensure you're ready to weather the storm ahead.

SUPPLIES



- ☐ **Water** – 1 gallon per person a day. Save water in a bathtub for dishwashing or flushing toilets, but do not consume.
- ☐ **First Aid Kit** – Band-aids, antibiotic ointment, hand sanitizer, medications, gauze, alcohol pads.
- ☐ **Flashlight** – 1 flashlight per person with the correct size of extra batteries.
- ☐ **Sanitation Products** – Toilet paper, moist towelettes, garbage bags, paper towels.
- ☐ **Battery powered radio** – Keep up with news and updates on the storm in case you lose power.
- ☐ **Medicines** – Prescription drugs that need to be taken on a daily basis including non-prescription drugs like aspirin or other pain relievers.

FOOD



- ☐ **Dry cereal** and oats
- ☐ **Canned goods:** fruit, vegetables, juice, soup, meats, pasta, beans
- ☐ **Nuts**
- ☐ **Peanut butter**
- ☐ **Bread** and crackers
- ☐ **Granola** and energy bars
- ☐ **Un-refrigerated fruit:** bananas, apples, oranges
- ☐ **Pet food**
- ☐ **Baby food**
- ☐ **Rice** and pasta
- ☐ **Dry milk** and juices
- ☐ **Water:** 1 gallon of drinking water per person for 5 days
- ☐ **Other** ready-to-eat, non perishable foods

DOCUMENTATION



- ☐ **Driver's License** copy
- ☐ **Printed** emergency contact list
- ☐ **Insurance policies:** health, home & auto
- ☐ **Vital documents:** birth certificates, passports, wills
- ☐ **Bank account** information
- ☐ **Photocopies** of back and front of debit and credit cards
- ☐ **Extra keys:** home, safe, office and car

Store all documentation in a secure, waterproof bag so items are not water damaged**

OTHER



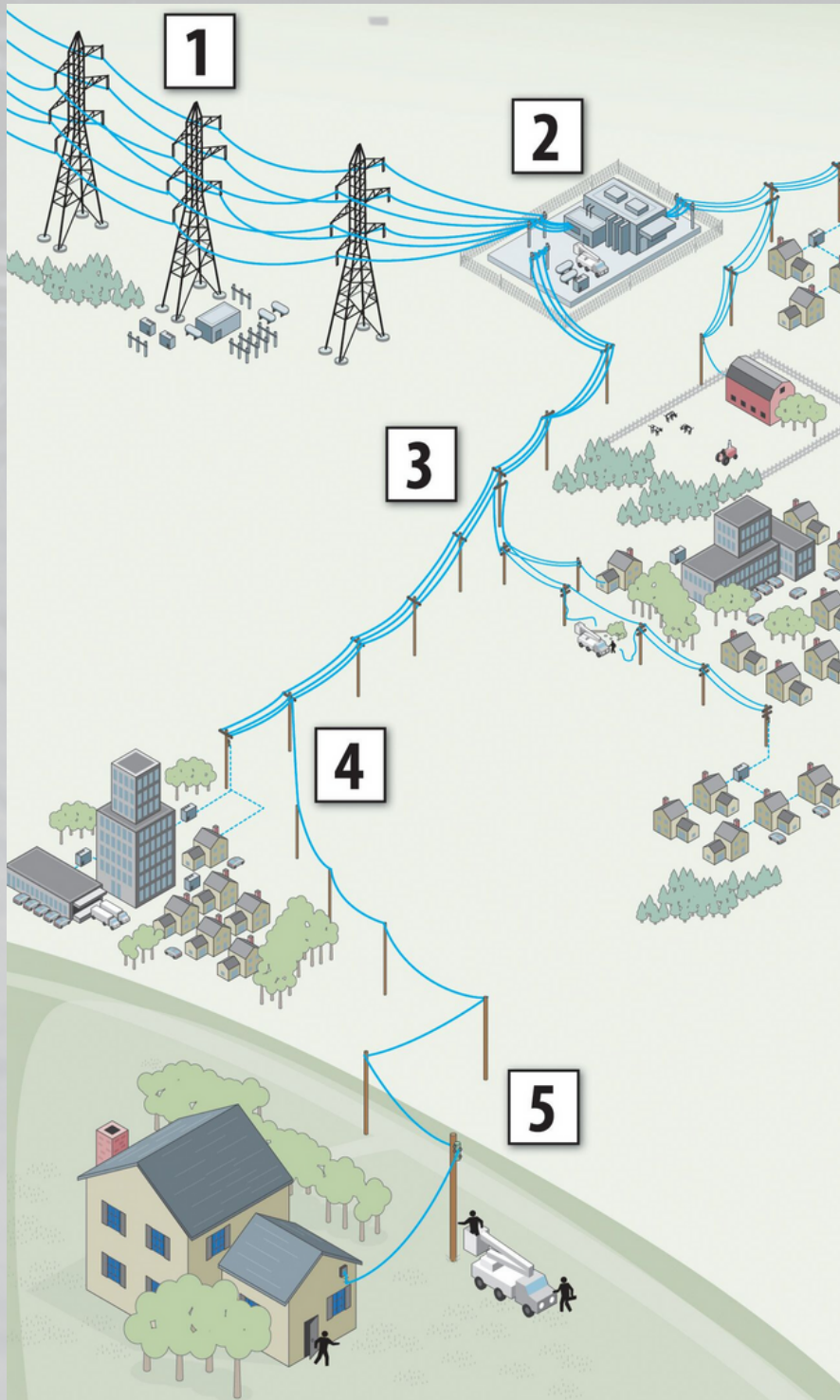
- ☐ **Duct tape**
- ☐ **Grill** with charcoal, lighter, and lighter fluid
- ☐ **Matches**
- ☐ **Manual can opener**
- ☐ **Paper plates,** cups plastic utensils, and foil
- ☐ **Pet leash,** collar, food bowls, and carrier
- ☐ **Baby diapers,** wipes, and rash ointment
- ☐ **Rope**
- ☐ **Large sealable bags** to store important documents
- ☐ **Fully charged portable** chargers for cell phones
- ☐ **Signal flare**

PREPARATION FOR YOUR HOME

- ☐ Trim trees, shrubbery, and dead limbs
- ☐ Repair or replace broken or damaged fences
- ☐ Inspect and replace loose roof tiles or shingles
- ☐ Clear loose and clogged gutters and drainspouts
- ☐ Reinforce garage doors and tracks
- ☐ Install hurricane shutters on windows, if possible
- ☐ Board windows with plywood
- ☐ Secure outdoor items such as pots and plants, furniture, etc.
- ☐ Fill all vehicles with gas in case you have to evacuate
- ☐ Withdraw cash from the bank
- ☐ Make arrangements for pets
- ☐ Charge all portable charging devices

HOW POWER IS RESTORED

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power to be restored within a few hours. When a major storm or hurricane causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. NEC line crews work long hours in dangerous conditions to restore service safely to the greatest number of meters in the shortest time possible.



1

High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2

Distribution Substation

Each substation serves our members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if there are other problems.

3

Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to larger groups of members in the community.

4

Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside business, schools, and homes.

5

Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help our lineworkers fix your issue.

INLAND FLOODING

As Texas residents, we are used to the weather changing at the drop of a hat. You can never be too safe when it comes to the landfall of tropical cyclones. Storms with slow forward motion are the most dangerous as heavy rains persist for a longer period of time causing significant floods.

5 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

1

Protect Personal Documents

- Store valuables in plastic totes with locking tops
- In case of an emergency, you should be able to access your valuables within 15 minutes

2

Buy Flood Insurance

- Flood insurance serves as a plan for replaceable items
- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available from an insurance agent or the NFIP
- For more information visit www.floodsmart.gov

3

Flood Proof Your Home

- Shut off the main breaker to prevent short circuiting on appliances
- Raise outside air conditioning units onto platforms above ground level
- Store valuables or expensive items in the attic or on high shelves

4

Develop a Family Flood Plan

- Have an evacuation route and alternatives planned in the event you need to evacuate
- Communicate plans with family and friends
- Battery powered radios or TV's can be used in the event of a power outage

5

Never Drive on Flooded Roads

- Driving into flooded roadways puts your life and the lives of others at risk
- Unless told to evacuate, you are safest staying put
- If you encounter floor waters while driving, turn around, don't drown



EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Ready.gov	1-800-FED-INFO	ready.gov
TXDOT Highway		drivetexas.org
National Hurricane Center		nhc.noaa.gov
American Red Cross	1-800-785-7851	redcross.org
FEMA	1-800-621-3362	fema.gov
NEC Report An Outage	1-800-NEC-WATT	nueceselectric.org
National Weather Service	361-289-0959	weather.gov
Nueces Co. Emergency	361-888-0513	
Kleberg Co. Emergency	361-595-8585	
Jim Wells Co. Emergency	361-668-5706	
Kenedy Co. Emergency	361-294-5511	
Duval Co. Emergency	361-279-3877	