

Florida Be Prepared

The Florida Public Service Commission recommends that you use the following checklist to “be prepared” in the case of power outages and other utility service interruptions during extreme weather events.



Gather Emergency Supplies

- Stock up on nonperishable foods (canned meats and vegetables), medicines, supplies, and pet food if you have pets.
- Keep a working radio, flashlights, extra batteries, candles and oil lamps. Check regularly to ensure that they are in working order.
- Store drinking water in clean bottles. You may also use jugs, pans, and the bathtub if a major storm appears imminent.
- Keep a small amount of cash on hand, since an extended power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from automated teller machines or banks.



Know Your Evacuation Plan

- Learn the evacuation route for your area.
- Keep your car fueled or charged in case an evacuation is ordered.
- Call relatives, neighbors, or local emergency officials if you anticipate needing a place to stay.



Stay Connected

- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers for police, fire, utility, and paramedic assistance.
- Charge all electronic devices and have backup power sources.
- Monitor weather forecasts and updates from trusted sources.
- Sign up for local emergency alerts.



Protect Your Home

- To prevent overloading when power is restored, turn off all major electric appliances.
- Secure windows and doors with storm shutters or plywood.
- Bring in outdoor furniture and secure loose items.
- Trim trees and shrubs to minimize damage.



Protect Your Family

- If someone in your home is dependent upon electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment, check with your utility on backup power options well in advance of a storm.
- Make arrangements for the care of infants, the elderly, and the physically impaired.



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SERVICE COMMISSION**

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