

Download the free 2024 Hurricane Preparedness Guide

Analysts have predicted 2024 will be an extremely active hurricane season, and June is the best time to get a jump on preparing.

Scan this QR code to download Clay Electric's 2024 Hurricane Preparedness Guide, which will help you make a plan, prepare your emergency kit and prepare your home.



Research suggests scale needs Category 6

Researchers say that another notch should be added to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind scale, specifically, a Category 6 intensity.

The five-category rating system was first introduced in 1973 and it rates hurricanes based on wind intensity. To be considered a Category 1, storms must at least have maximum sustained winds of 75 mph, while on the other end of the scale, Category 5 storms must have at least 157 mph winds.

The new category would add an intensity level to the scale to define storms with winds greater than 192 mph, and the researchers say the study shows a number of recent tropical cyclones would meet that criteria. The study finds, "Observations of actual hurricanes show that the percentage of storms reaching high intensity has been increasing."

The study was published earlier this year in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and doesn't represent an official decision by the National Hurricane Center.

GENERLINK SWITCH

Continued from cover

You'll need to ensure your generator is compatible with GenerLink before scheduling your installation with Clay's Energy Services department. Head to ClayElectric.com/generlink to find a three-step checklist that will help you choose a generator or validate your existing generator type.

After you've done that, submit an inquiry through your MyClayElectric app or call us at 1-800-224-4917.

Operate generators with safety in mind

Clay Electric wants to remind owners of portable generators that the improper use of these devices can create an extremely dangerous situation if they backfeed electricity into the co-op's distribution system. This situation could result in serious injury or death.

Portable generators should never be wired into a home's distribution panel or into a receptacle that's connected to a home's electrical panel. It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with your generator's safety and operating guidelines before using it at your home.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Nick Jones at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: NJones@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon on June 27 and July 23 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

June 2024

Generator plus GenerLink equals peace of mind

Our promise to you continues to be safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but the month of June — the very beginning of hurricane season — serves as a reminder that Mother Nature has her own, often unpredictable schedule.

Case in point: Vegetation is the chief cause of power outages, and while your cooperative makes immense efforts in pruning trees and cutting branches, oftentimes high winds and heavy rains are to blame for a tree limb outside the right-of-way contacting a power line and causing an outage.

During outages, portable generators help keep your lights on and your appliances running, and the safest way to connect one to your home's electric system is with Clay Electric's recommended emergency transfer switch, GenerLink.

GenerLink is installed behind the electric meter with no wiring required of your electric system. It detects when the generator is operating and automatically disconnects from Clay Electric's distribution system, eliminating a dangerous backfeed.

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Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Suspect a scam? Just hang up and call us

Scammers can be awfully cunning. We hear too often of Clay Electric members having been targeted by phone fraudsters, but fortunately, in many cases, the member is ever the wiser to the situation and thinks first to verify.

The methods they use to deceive can never be discounted, and the laundry list of tactics they use only continues to grow. The best thing you can do is know how to spot the red flags, and that means knowing what your cooperative will or will not request.

What we will and won't do

- Clay Electric will never demand an instant, immediate payment or threaten to disconnect your service without prior warnings. Period. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to do so.
- Clay Electric will not use a third party to collect payment either by credit card, prepaid cards or by using payment apps like Cash App, Venmo or Zelle. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, through the MyClayElectric app or online at ClayElectric.com.

- Clay Electric will only send you a text message communication if you've opted in for texts through your MyClayElectric app, such as Outage Alerts.

Spotting red flags

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately.

Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam.

You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

It's OK to have doubts

Whether you're talking to someone in person, online or over the phone, it's OK to be suspicious of someone who's claiming to be with Clay Electric, especially if that person is asking for sensitive banking or other personal information.

If you're ever in doubt — just give us a call at 1-800-224-4917. We encourage members to report any potential scams.

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

1 Caulk

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



2 Weatherstripping

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



3 Insulate

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

