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N E W S R E L E A S E

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The City of Mount Dora Electric Encourages Customer Safety Ahead of 2020 Hurricane Season

Mount Dora, Fla. (June 5, 2020) – As Florida prepares for the 2020 hurricane season, the City of Mount Dora Electric reminds you to stay safe and be prepared. If a storm does hit our area, stay away from downed power lines. Assume the downed power lines are energized and never touch or try to move them. Electric crews will be working diligently to restore power as quickly as possible.

City of Mount Dora Electric has developed 10 safety tips recommended for customers to protect themselves and their home. These safety tips remind our customers of things that people did not know or forgot during past hurricanes, tropical storms and weather-related events.

1. If you use a portable generator: DON'T run a generator in the house, DON'T run a generator in the garage, and DON'T plug a generator directly into a house's main electrical system. The first two could lead to suffocation and the third could send an electrical charge back to the power grid, which would create an electrocution hazard for utility workers. DO set up generators outside in a well-ventilated area, and DO plug individual appliances directly into the generator.
2. If your home has water leaks or floods, shut off the power to your home until the electrical wiring can be inspected by a licensed electrician.
3. If you smell natural gas, evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1 or the gas company's emergency number.
4. Carry proper ID in the event you need to enter identification check points to access your home or neighborhood.
5. If you have an overhead electric service inspect your home's weatherhead for damage after a storm. The weatherhead is located above the electric meter where the electrical wires exit the conduit. The weatherhead is the homeowner's responsibility, and utility workers cannot reconnect service if it is damaged. Contact a licensed electrician for repairs.



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6. Utilities typically cannot respond to customers with special needs during or immediately after a storm. Have an evacuation plan and know special needs shelter locations. If you or someone you know has special electrical medical equipment needs, notify a medical facility such as the hospital prior to the storm's arrival.
7. To determine a hurricane evacuation route, visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.
8. Clear the patio and yard of lawn furniture, toys, potted plants and other items that could blow away and cause damage or injury.
9. Create a hurricane survival kit that includes: first aid supplies; drinking water (at least one gallon per person, per day); batteries; flashlights; battery powered radio; manual can opener; prescriptions; baby food and diapers; pet food; canned foods; cash; tarps; rope; bleach; trash bags; charcoal or gas grill with plenty of fuel; wooden kitchen matches; and a portable cooler. Consider using a hard-wired, corded phone as cordless phones will not work during a power outage.
10. Never trim trees near power lines.

“The safety of our customers is of the utmost importance so we encourage everyone to have an emergency plan and a disaster supply kit before the storm hits,” said City of Mount Dora Electric Utility Director Steve Langley. “Preparation is key not just for every resident in our community, but for your public power utility, as well. Mount Dora Electric prepares the electric system ahead of storm season and continues to invest in storm hardening measures so that the electric system is ready when severe weather strikes.”

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