



Hurricane Preparedness

The hurricane season officially runs from June 1st to November 30th each year.

It's best to prepare early, in order to prevent the loss of lives, minimise damage to property and aid in a quick recovery.

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones with winds that exceed 74 miles and circulate counter-clockwise about their centers. Hurricanes are classified into five categories, based on their wind speeds and potential to level of damage.

Category	Sustained Wind Speed	Level of Damage
Category 1	74–95 mph	Low
Category 2	96–110 mph	Moderate
Category 3	111–130 mph	Extensive
Category 4	131–155 mph	Extreme
Category 5	+155 mph	Catastrophic

Be Prepared

- ✓ Make a disaster plan and ensure everyone is familiar with it.
- ✓ Store water, non-perishable food, and prescription medication. Remember basic emergency supplies such as batteries, a first aid kit and flashlights.
- ✓ Trim overhanging trees. If trees near power lines are unsafe to trim, call Grenlec at 237 for assistance or advice.
- ✓ Safely remove or relocate all electrical equipment and appliances from locations where they can get wet.
- ✓ Ensure your generator has an isolation switch. This will prevent it feeding back to Grenlec's lines and electrocuting others.
- ✓ Know where your electrical panel is in the event that you need to turn off the power.
- ✓ Install surge protectors to safeguard your electrical devices against intermittent surges and outages.

Be Prepared

When a Storm is Approaching:

- ✓ Ensure all electrical devices are unplugged and take off the main switch. This will reduce the potential for damage or fire.
- ✓ Charge mobile phones and extra batteries fully.
- ✓ Turn off air-conditioning units.
- ✓ Set your refrigerator to the coldest temperature to help perishables last longer. Food will stay frozen between 36 and 48 hours in a fully loaded freezer and 24 hours in a half filled one. Try not to open the doors unless absolutely necessary.

During a Storm:

- ✓ Be mindful that you may lose power.
- ✓ If the power goes off, unplug your refrigerator.
- ✓ Avoid using a corded telephone or any electrical appliance.
- ✓ Remain in a safe location.

After the Storm:

- ✓ Be alert and listen to the media for official instructions.
- ✓ Use flashlights in the dark; do not use candles.
- ✓ Assume all wires are energised and keep away from them. Avoid water

that is in contact with electricity poles and lines.

- ✓ If your home has sustained floor or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
- ✓ If appliances and electronics get wet, allow them to dry properly and check with your electrician before using them again.
- ✓ Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage before restoring power.
- ✓ Report damaged electrical poles and wires to Grenlec. Call 237, report to nearest office or Grenlec crew members.

Grenlec has a Top Priority Power Restoration Plan:

After emergencies, the company will first restore power to critical facilities such as hospitals, police and fire departments, water supply pumps and other emergency facilities. Electricity will then be restored to commercial centers followed by largest outage areas, then smaller outage areas. This methodical approach ensures that the community's highest-priority needs are met as soon as possible.

Grenlec Continues to Be Prepared

As we continue in our preparation strategy, our teams are:

- ✓ Trimming trees and checking poles and other hardware.
- ✓ Updating emergency plans and ensuring team members are aware of roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Utilising technology to help us manage communication, as well as the preparation and recovery processes.
- ✓ Using VHF mobile radios to communicate with all its crews.
- ✓ Repeater provide island wide coverage. An emergency repeater is also available for dispatch, if needed.
- ✓ Working with the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) year-round to prepare for the hurricane season. A radio is also setup at Grenlec's emergency centre to facilitate communication with NADMA at all times.
- ✓ Actively engaging in customer education.

