













HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY
















The Atlantic hurricane season is **June** to **November**, with the **peak season** from **mid-August** to **late October**.

On average there are six hurricanes, three of which are categorized as "major", each year. History provides important examples of the potentially dangerous impact hurricanes can have and the need to be prepared.

Eyeing the Storm

 PREPARE FOR THE STORM	 WEATHER THE STORM	 RECOVER FROM THE STORM
 <p>Charge all phones and communication devices.</p>	 <p>Stay indoors during hurricanes and away from windows and glass.</p>	 <p>Do not use electrical equipment and electronics, including receptacles, that have been submerged in water.</p>
 <p>Unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible.</p>	 <p>Never operate a portable generator inside your home.</p>	 <p>Have a qualified electrician inspect any water damaged electrical equipment and electronics.</p>
 <p>If recommended by utilities or emergency officials, turn off breakers to avoid power surges.</p>	 <p>Never connect a generator directly into your homes wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed.</p>	 <p>Stay away from downed power lines. If you encounter a downed power line, stay at least 35 feet away and do not touch the line or anything that may be in contact with the line.</p>

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1 74-95 MPH Winds Some Damage	CATEGORY 2 96-110 MPH Winds Extensive Damage	CATEGORY 3 111-129 MPH Winds Devastating Damage	CATEGORY 4 130-156 MPH Winds Catastrophic Damage	CATEGORY 5 >156 MPH Winds Catastrophic Damage
 <p>Potential roof damage.</p>  <p>Large tree branches may snap, shallow-rooted trees may fall.</p>  <p>Damage to utility poles and power lines. Outages may last few to several days.</p>	 <p>Potential major roof damage.</p>  <p>Shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or unrooted.</p>  <p>Power outages for several days to weeks.</p>	 <p>Major home damage.</p>  <p>Many trees will be snapped or unrooted.</p>  <p>Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks.</p>	 <p>Severe home damage.</p>  <p>Most trees will be snapped or unrooted and utility poles downed.</p>  <p>Power outages for weeks to possibly months.</p>	 <p>High percentage of framed homes will be destroyed.</p>  <p>Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.</p>  <p>Power outages for weeks to possibly months.</p>

According to the *Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety*, homes built to modern building codes fare much better than homes built to older codes. Make sure your home is up to code.

ESFi Additional severe weather safety information is available at www.esfi.org.