

Florence Energy News

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY TIPS



Severe weather is a common occurrence in Alabama. Although it can strike at any time, it is most frequent in the spring and summer months between March and August. Lightning, wind, hail, tornadoes, and floods all pose great danger. Here are some severe weather and power outage tips.

SEVERE WEATHER AND POWER OUTAGE TIPS

- ◆ Stay away from downed power lines. Lines may look safe but can be deadly. Report electrical hazards to the police and Florence Utilities.
- ◆ Use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Avoid using candles due to the severe risk of fire. If you use candles, make sure they are in safe holders away from flammable items.
- ◆ Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- ◆ Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- ◆ Do not run a generator inside your home or garage.
- ◆ If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.
- ◆ Never use pressure washers, grills, camp stoves, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices inside your home.
- ◆ Listen to local radio and television for updated information.

- ◆ Use the phone for emergencies only. Do not call 911 for information, only call to report a life-threatening emergency.
- ◆ Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
- ◆ Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic signals may stop working during an outage, creating traffic congestion.

HOW CAN I PREPARE BEFORE AN OUTAGE HAPPENS?

Assemble essential supplies, such as flashlight, batteries, portable radio, at least one gallon of water, and a supply of food.

REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER

If you have space in your refrigerator or freezer, consider filling plastic containers with water, leaving about an inch of space inside each one. This chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold when the power goes out. If you use medication that requires refrigeration, most can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.

COMPUTERS

If you use a computer, keep files and operating systems backed up regularly. Consider buying extra batteries and a power converter if you use a laptop computer. Also, turn off all computers, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners, and other devices when they are not being used. That way, if the power goes out, this equipment will have been safely shut down. Get a high quality surge protector for all of your computer equipment. If you use the computer frequently, such as for a home business, consider purchasing and installing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

GARAGE DOORS

If you have an electric garage door opener, find out where the manual release lever is located and learn how to operate it. If you regularly use the garage as the primary means of entering your home, be sure to keep a key to your house with you in case the garage door will not open.

TELEPHONES

If you have a telephone instrument or system at home or at work that requires electricity to operate, plan for alternate communication, including having a standard telephone handset, cellular telephone, radio, or pager.

WHO TO CALL DURING A POWER OUTAGE



911 lines are for emergency calls only. Simple power outages, even wide spread in nature, are not considered a true emergency. 911 dispatchers contact the same local number for utilities that is listed in the phone book. Calling the utility department and speaking with a worker, or leaving a message is the best way to report outages. Also, calling 911 to report outages will not expedite your service.

There are times when you should call 911 concerning damage to power lines during a storm or tornado. If you see power lines down that are arcing or smoking, especially if these lines are across structures and roadways, call 911 to report them. This can be a dangerous situation which needs a response from appropriate fire department personnel. Do not hesitate to call 911 during storms or tornados to report any fire, police, or medical situation.

Call 764-4456 to report a power outage.

May - June Calendar of Events

May 12-13: Waterloo Heritage Days
Location: Main Street-Waterloo, Alabama
Contact: 766-6476, Willard South

May 19-20: Florence Wagon Works Festival
Location: McFarland Park
Admission: Free
Contact: 740-4141

May 20-21: Arts Alive Festival
20th Annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival
Location: Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts & Wilson Park
Hours: 9 am-5 pm
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-6379
www.artsalivealabama.com



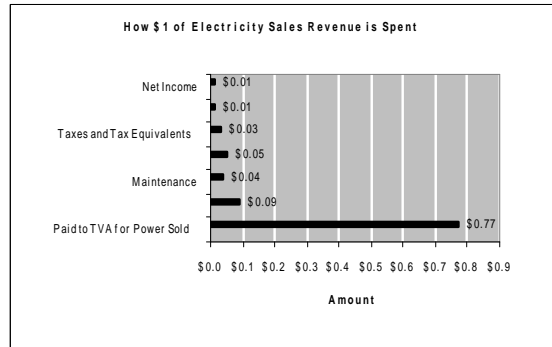
June 3-4: Frontier Day Celebration
Location: Pope's Tavern Museum
Hours: 10 am-4 pm Saturday
1 pm-4 pm Sunday
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-6439

June 9: Swamp John's at St. Michael's Gym
Benefits Park and Community Center
Location: St. Michael's Gym—Town of St. Florian
Hours: 4 pm-7 pm
Contact: 767-3690



How \$1 of ELECTRICITY SALES REVENUE IS SPENT

The Florence Utilities Electricity Department purchases electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) through four primary substations, distributes it through 44 distribution substations, and over 2,482 miles of overhead line. We are committed to providing the most reliable, economical, and best electrical service to the people in Lauderdale County.



The bar graph above illustrates how \$1 of electricity sales revenue is spent. The department is financed primarily through the sale of electricity. The Florence Utilities Electricity Department's total operating revenue for FY 2005 was in excess of \$80 million, and it purchases over 1.1 billion kilowatt hours annually from TVA.

ATTENTION
Florence Utilities will be closed
MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 29, 2006

Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

Severe weather is a common occurrence in Alabama. Alabama observed a record-breaking total of 77 tornadoes during 2005. Although severe weather can strike at any time, it is most frequent in the spring and summer months between March and August. Lightning, wind, hail, tornadoes, and floods all pose great danger to Alabama. By taking a few minutes to learn or review severe weather safety procedures listed inside, you could save your life or that of someone else.

Also, in this issue is information about how \$1 of electricity sales revenue is spent. The Florence Utilities Electricity Department's total operating revenue for FY 2005 was in excess of \$80 million, and it purchases over 1.1 billion kilowatt hours annually from TVA. The department is financed primarily through the sale of electricity.

Please take a minute to look over the Calendar of Events section. The 20th Annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival will be May 20-21. Make plans to attend this exciting festival.

www.florenceutilities.com