

Ahead of the weather

These tips can help you be prepared and safe during hurricane season

Hurricane season is just around the corner, and that can cause storms and power outages. To help you prepare for an emergency, we've created these four handy reference tools. Stick this page on your fridge or cut out the sections for easy reference to

help you when you sign up for TextPower, experience an electrical outage, prepare an emergency kit or hold a family meeting about what to do in an emergency. Additional information is available at bluebonnet.coop/outages.

4 ways to report a power outage

1. Call our automated outage hotline, 800-949-4414. Program this number into your address book or keep it near your home phone.
2. Use TextPower with a smartphone. To register, text BBOUTAGE to 85700 and follow the prompts. Once you have registered, report an outage on your mobile device by texting OUT to 85700. You can receive updates by texting STATUS to the same number.
3. Go online to bluebonnet.coop. Click on Report Outage in the top task bar. Log in and follow the prompts.
4. Use our mobile app for iPhone and Android smartphones and tablets. Download it for free, then call from the login page OR log in, then click on Outage (iPhone) or the lightning bolt (Android) in the top right corner and follow the prompts.

Questions? Call a member service representative at 800-842-7708 during business hours. Or email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop.

Emergency supply checklist

- Flashlights and spare batteries
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- A cooler, ice, freezer packs, canned food and a manual can opener
- A battery-operated or rotary telephone
- Drinking water — at least one gallon per person, per day
- A first-aid kit and prescription medications (and copies of prescriptions), eyeglasses, hearing aids and other necessary health equipment
- Copies of important documents and records, including photo IDs and insurance papers
- Cash — credit cards and ATMs may not work in power outages

Remember: Evacuate if ordered to do so. Call 211 if you are not sure of the evacuation boundaries and shelter locations.

Prepare your family for an emergency

1. Put together an emergency supply kit for use during an evacuation.
2. Discuss escape routes from each room of the house as well as from your neighborhood.
3. Make sure all family members know how to get in touch even if phone service is disrupted, such as meeting at a designated place or reporting in with emergency responders.
4. Create a checklist of what to do before you leave, such as boarding or shuttering windows, turning off electricity at the circuit breaker or fuse box, and turning off gas at the meter or tank.
5. Plan what to do with pets and livestock.

Steps to take when your power goes out

1. When it is safe to do so, locate your home's electrical panel and check the circuit breakers to see if a breaker switch is tripped or a fuse is blown.
2. Find out if your neighbor's power also is out.
3. Check our Outage Map at bluebonnet.coop on a battery powered laptop, tablet or smartphone. The page updates automatically every 5 minutes.
4. Report the power outage.

Sources: Texas.gov;
Texas Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)