



Central Electric Power Association

A tradition of dependable,
hometown service
since 1937

Carthage 601-267-5671 • Philadelphia 601-656-2601 • Rankin 601-829-1201 • Sebastopol 601-625-7422

PREPARING for disaster in advance



Every year, the U.S. is hit by many natural disasters, including snow and ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and wildfires. These types of disasters pose a significant threat to our communities and homes. The most important step you can take to keep you and your family safe is to prepare beforehand, but knowing what to do during and after the event is crucial as well.

Before disaster strikes, familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that are common in your region, especially if you're new to the area. Many of the specifics depend on what type of disaster you're expecting, but there are several general guidelines to keep in mind as you prepare:

- **Water:** You will need one gallon per person per day. If you assume your family of four may be stranded for a week, store a minimum of 28 gallons.
- **Food:** Stock up on non-perishable or long shelf-life items, such as wheat, soybeans, canned fruits, peanut butter, jelly and condensed soups.
- **First Aid Kit:** Make sure your kit includes adhesive bandages (assorted sizes), antiseptic wipes, aspirin, hydrocortisone ointment, scissors and a thermometer. For a full list of suggested items, visit www.redcross.org.
- **Flashlights and candles:** Be sure to keep extra batteries and matches (in a waterproof container) on hand.

For additional guidance on emergency items to keep around the house, visit www.ready.gov/build-a-kit. Also consider training offered by local emergency management services such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes.

Some disasters occur suddenly, but many bring advance warnings, like hurricanes and winter storms.

Pay special attention during the week leading up to the event for local and state government warnings and evacuation notices. Make sure every family member knows what your emergency plan is: staying or leaving, safe rooms in the house, where supplies are located, what to do if anyone is separated, and how to notify loved ones that you're safe after the event. It's also a good idea to know where your home's main water and gas shutoff valves are located.

While the U.S. electric grid is reliable, it is possible to lose power during a storm. The outage could be momentary or last hours or even days. If you live in an area where loss of power after a storm could be dangerous, consider purchasing a backup generator for your home. These can cost anywhere from a few hundred to few thousand dollars, depending on your needs. Be sure to test the generator before the disaster to ensure it's operating properly.

If you don't have a backup generator and lose power, don't panic. Most power outages in the U.S. are short and will not last more than a few hours. However, without knowing in advance how long the outage will last, it's wise to assume and act as though it will last for days. Here are a few general tips for wise energy practices during a disaster:

- Consume perishable and refrigerated foods first before they spoil.
- Pack frozen foods close together and consider freezing water bottles to eliminate any air pockets. The frozen water will help keep the food cooler longer.
- Make sure you have alternative lighting sources, like candles and flashlights (with spare batteries) located throughout the home.
- Keep manual tools such as a can

opener on hand to replace any electronic gadgets you typically use.

- Similar to filling a bathtub with water before a storm, make sure that all cell phones are fully charged.
- If the disaster involves lightning, unplug all electronic devices to protect against a power surge.

After the storm, be cautious when leaving your home. Listen to government warnings and use common sense when approaching any damaged buildings or fallen trees. If you see a power line that is down, always assume the wires are live and dangerous. If possible, call your local electric cooperative to report the downed power line.

With a little bit of forethought, you're highly likely to make it through a disaster without too many problems. Remember, you and your family's safety should always come first.

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit www.ready.gov.

Tip

of the Month



Keep warm
summer air outside
where it belongs!
Add caulk or
weatherstripping
to seal air leaks
around leaky doors
and windows.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI

ECM Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Foundation was created by the electric cooperatives of Mississippi in 2005. In an effort to give back to the communities they serve, the Foundation provides scholarships for post-secondary and vocational education to accredited institutions for qualifying high school seniors. For the fall of 2018, the Foundation awarded scholarships to dependents of employees of participating electric cooperatives. Four Central Electric employee's children who are entering college this fall were awarded the ECM Foundation Scholarships. Central Electric wants to congratulate each recipient on receiving this scholarship.

Jason Pugh

Jason Pugh is the son of Randall and Glenda Pugh. He is a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center. Jason enjoys hunting, fishing, and four-wheeler riding. He attends High Hill Baptist Church. Jason plans to attend East Central Community College where he will pursue a degree in automation control technology.



Hunter Burkes

Hunter Burkes is the son of Ryan and Amy Burkes. He is a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center. Hunter enjoys hunting and fishing. He played football and baseball while in high school. He attends Steam Mill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Hunter plans to attend East Central Community College where he will pursue a degree in electrical technology.



Matthew Kea

Matthew Kea is the son of Mike and Sally Stubbs and Donnie and Emily Kea. He is a graduate of Leake Academy. Matthew enjoys playing basketball and fishing. He plans to attend East Mississippi Community College and pursue a degree in business.



Abby Holmes

Abby Holmes is the daughter of Kirk and Ginger Holmes. She is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. While in high school, she was a cheerleader and was a member of the Crown Club, Junior Auxiliary, Beta Club, and Mayors Youth Council. Abby will be attending Holmes Community College on a cheerleading scholarship. She plans to pursue a degree in psychology and pre-law.



Congratulations

**CENTRAL ELECTRIC
POWER ASSOCIATION**

will be closed Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day

In case of a power outage or emergency, please call 1-866-846-5671. CEPA Dispatcher on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

