



Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SYEMC Prepares for Hurricane Irma, Urges Members to Prepare

Dobson, NC - Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation (SYEMC) is preparing for Hurricane Irma. Recent models show the storm tracking further west; however, SYEMC officials are preparing for many possible scenarios. As a precaution, SYEMC has called in additional crews to assist area restoration efforts if necessary. All crews will be on standby beginning Sunday night, and will be ready to be dispatched to restore power if outages occur.

If the storm does not turn west once it makes landfall in South Florida, many members could experience storm-related outages. In such a situation, members who live in the most rural areas served by the Co-op could be without power for days.

During an outage, SYEMC crews work to restore power to the largest number of people first. After transmission and distribution lines are fixed, the Co-op's crews then fix problems in smaller neighborhoods or problems at individual homes. When there are issues with transmission lines, the Co-op's outage management system also allows engineers to redirect electricity or "back-feed" from other substations to restore power, but only after important safety precautions have been taken.

SYEMC is asking all members to prepare for the storm. Members should have an emergency kit assembled and be prepared for the possibility of an extended power outage. Now is the time to prepare.

Red Cross Recommended Emergency Kit Essentials:

- Styrofoam coolers to preserve food
- Ice to keep food cold
- Water—one gallon per person, per day
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare
- Flashlights
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Cell phone with multiple charging options (car chargers recommended).
- Family and emergency contacts

Additional SYEMC Safety Tips:

- Stay away from downed wires or damaged electric equipment. Always assume they are live and deadly. Touching energized wires can lead to injuries and death. If you see downed wires, call SYEMC immediately.
- If you use a generator, never run it inside your home or garage. Some produce carbon monoxide fumes, which can be deadly.

Resources for Members:

- To report an outage, please call 800-682-5903. Outage information will also be periodically updated on SYEMC's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation is a locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative centrally located in Dobson, North Carolina. The Co-op maintains 4,000 miles of distribution line and serves over 27,000 members living in Surry, Yadkin, Stokes, Wilkes and Forsyth counties. For more information about storm preparedness and outage restoration efforts, visit syemc.com/stormcenter.

SYEMC



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Surry Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer committed to providing outstanding service that powers our rural communities,