

WALLINGFORD ELECTRIC DIVISION
HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS

The peak hurricane season in the Atlantic region is from mid-August through the end of October. In addition to knocking out power to your homes and businesses, post-storm electrical hazards such as downed electrical lines or flooding can lead to severe injuries or even death.

As your utility provider, the Wallingford Electric Division would like to share the following information regarding electrical dangers associated with severe storms and tips for staying safe in the event of a flood or power outage.

1. In advance of a severe storm, unplug appliances and power cords to protect them from power surges.
2. Test your home's carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms to ensure that they are functioning properly.
3. Keep flashlights with extra batteries handy to use as a light source. Check the power level of the batteries to insure adequate charge. Candles pose a possible fire hazard; use with caution.
4. Do not enter flooded areas in your home until a professional has deemed it safe to do so as submerged outlets and cords can electrify water.
5. Never operate a generator inside a home or in a partially/fully enclosed area such as a porch or garage.
6. To avoid causing injury to utility line workers, always use a transfer switch with a generator to isolate utility power from generator power to prevent backfeeding.
7. Think twice before driving during a storm and avoid driving through floodwater. A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater. Also, if your vehicle comes in contact with downed wires, stay in the car and if possible, drive away.
8. Be observant and assess your surroundings. Do not go near any broken or downed wires. If avoidable, never drive over a downed power line or through water that is in contact with a downed line.
9. Contact local authorities if you see a downed power line, and keep a safe distance between you and the line. For your information, a live electrical wire can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.

Be safe and be aware! Should there be an outage, rest assured that the Electric Division will work as quickly and as safely as possible to restore your service. Should you need to contact us regarding an outage or an emergency situation, please call our Emergency/After Hours number at 203-265-5055.