

Operate generators with safety in mind

Every time a storm threatens Florida, news accounts show folks snapping up portable generators.

Clay Electric wants to remind owners of portable generators that the improper use of these devices can create an extremely dangerous situation if they backfeed electricity into the cooperative's distribution system. This situation could result in serious injury or death to an unsuspecting serviceman, neighbor or family member.

Portable generators should never be wired directly into a home's distribution (breaker) panel or into a receptacle that's connected to a home's electrical panel. Appliances should be plugged directly into the portable generator's outlets, or connected to a heavy-duty extension cord that plugs into the generator. It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with the generator's safety and operating guidelines before using it at your home.

Some co-op members choose to have a permanent stand-by generator installed in their home. County electrical codes require that stand-by generators that are permanently installed must be wired to a transfer switch that separates the generator from the outside power source when it's operating.

If you desire more information about stand-by or portable generator systems and their proper installation, please call the co-op's Energy Services Division (1-800-771-2325, Ext: 8263). More information about the safe use of portable generators is also included in the co-op's annual Hurricane Guide, available at district offices and at www.clayelectric.com.

COSTS

Continued from front

Filters should fit snugly in the filter track so unfiltered air does not bypass the filter and enter the HVAC system.



When the facility is unoccupied, set the thermostat(s) to a higher temperature setting to save energy. Save up to 30 percent by using smart power strips to regulate energy use on equipment, such as computers, copiers and printers when they are not being used.

If the facility has ceiling fans, only run fans when the area is occupied. Ceiling fans don't cool the air, but they make the body feel cooler by approximately two degrees.



Lighting can be another energy hog. Keep lights off except when needed. If the fixture has T12 fluorescent tubes, changing the ballast out from magnetic to electronic and equipping the fixture with T8 fluorescent tubes or LEDs will cut the operating cost per fixture by approximately one half. The light fixture housing will accommodate the new T8's. Another way to cut lighting energy use is to install timers or set up a scheduling system to control lights on a predictable schedule.

Exterior lights operating during the daytime waste electricity. A daily inspection of the facility should be made to address this issue.

For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off the monitor when you're not using your computer, and both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than two hours.

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The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

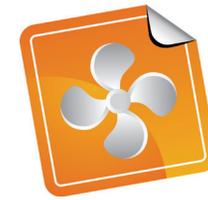
Power Line

July 2018

Businesses can cut energy costs, too

As energy costs are one of the top three expenses for many small businesses, reducing energy bills could provide a significant boost to your bottom line.

Listed below are some of the quickest and most effective ways to help conserve energy, trim costs and gain control over usage.



Thermostats should be set for "Auto" fan whereby the circulating fan only runs when the equipment is in operation. Running the fan continuously will reintroduce any moisture the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) has removed back into the airstream when the compressor shuts off. Elevated relative humidity levels makes for uncomfortable conditions.



HVAC equipment should be serviced by a licensed HVAC contractor annually. Any equipment that isn't properly charged with refrigerant will cost more to operate.

Filters should be changed frequently.

Continued on back panel

What to do before, during and after a hurricane strikes

Hurricane season is here, but it's not too late to update emergency plans and phone lists and restock supply kits.

These tips are from the co-op's Storm Guide. The complete guide and more can be found at clayelectric.com/reliability-restoration/storm-center

What to do well ahead of the storm

- Discuss the types of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home but within the community.
- Determine escape routes and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles, not hundreds of miles.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact.
- Have a plan for pets in case an evacuation is ordered.
- Keep emergency telephone numbers by the phone; make sure children know how and when to call 911.
- Check insurance coverage — flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Make sure you have a NOAA weather radio, and remember to replace its battery every six months.
- Take first aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.
- Trim trees and shrubs. Make sure debris is cleared prior to a hurricane warning announcement when trash pickup is suspended.

Note: Do not attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near any overhead power lines. Only specially trained line-clearing professionals should do so.

- Make plans to secure property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. Another option: Board up.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten the roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

What to do when the storm is coming

Here's a list compiled from several sources:

- Most important: Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- If someone in your home depends on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, review your family emergency plan for backup power or make arrangements to evacuate.
- Before lowering a TV antenna or satellite dish, make sure to turn off and unplug the TV and avoid power lines.
- Turn off all swimming pool pumps and filters and wrap them in waterproof materials.
- Turn off and unplug any unnecessary electrical equipment.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters, secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings ahead of time to keep food fresh longer in the event of a power outage.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes, such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

What to do during the storm

- Go to your safe room — a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.
- Stay indoors, away from windows & glass doors.



- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace all external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Remember that a "lull" might be the eye of the storm; winds could pick up again.
- If the roof begins to leak or rain blows in around doors and windows, do not go outside to repair damage during the storm.

After the storm

- Watch for downed power lines that are still live.
- Don't strike matches until you are sure no gas is leaking.
- Look out for broken glass, nails and other sharp debris.
- Snakes and other dangerous animals could be on the loose.
- Do not use water until the local water utility, through the media, says it is safe to do so. Use only bottled or disinfected water.
- If your home is damaged, be aware that it still may collapse.
- Be on the lookout for possible looters.
- Avoid driving: Roads may be littered with debris and traffic lights may not be working.