

Hurricane forecast calls for 13 storms

A forecast team from Colorado State University has predicted a slightly below-average Atlantic hurricane season.

The CSU Tropical Meteorology Project says there will be an average of 13 named storms, with five of those storms developing into hurricanes in the Atlantic this season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. The historical seasonal average is 12 tropical storms, with 6.5 of them becoming hurricanes.

The team predicts:

- A 48 percent chance that at least one major hurricane will make landfall on the U.S. coastline in 2019 (the long-term average probability is 52 percent).

- A 28 percent chance that a major hurricane will make landfall on the U.S. East Coast, including the Florida Peninsula (the long-term average is 31 percent).

- A 28 percent chance that a major hurricane will make landfall on the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle west to Brownsville (the long-term average is 30 percent).

The 2018 Atlantic hurricane season saw eight storms become hurricanes, with two of them reaching major hurricane status. Hurricane Michael would become the third most intense hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. in terms of pressure.

Florida residents are reminded to take the proper precautions and to remember that it takes only one landfall event nearby to make this an active season.

To help members prepare, Clay Electric offers a Hurricane Preparedness Guide. It is available at www.clayelectric.com and at all of the co-op's district offices.

MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit clayelectric.com to access your account information:

- View current charges & account balance
- View past bill statements/account history
- Make a one-time payment online
- Sign up for Average Billing Plan
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)
- Sign up for automatic monthly payment plan
- Report your power outage:

<https://outagereport.clayelectric.com>

OPERATION ROUND UP — Operation Round Up is a program to generate and collect voluntary donations that are used to benefit organizations in Clay Electric's service area for the purpose of improving the quality of life of our members and their communities. Participating members' electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar amount. The funds are placed in a separate account to be allocated by the Clay Electric Foundation.

PROJECT SHARE — Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM — Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

SURGEBLASTER — High quality surge protection equipment at a low price.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD — A national discount card program. It offers 10-60 percent discounts on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies, as well as special discounts and deals!

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Editor Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: jcaudell@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Friday, June 28 beginning at noon in Keystone Heights.

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The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

June 2019

Outdoor light not on? Let us know

If you are aware of an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light on Clay Electric Cooperative's lines, call 1-800-224-4917 to report the problem, or visit www.clayelectric.com and fill out the online form.

When reporting the problem, you will need to provide the following information so the co-op can make the appropriate repair, and contact you should there be any questions:

(1) Specific street address where the outdoor light is located.

(2) A description of where the outdoor light is located on the property.

(3) A description of the nature of the malfunction or failure of illumination of the outdoor light.

(4) Sufficient contact information to include your name, address, telephone number, account number (if a Clay Electric Cooperative member) and email address (if using the online form).

This information is printed in compliance with Florida Statute 768.1382.



 **Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Appreciate the power behind your power

June brings the official start of summer and a time to enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages.

While Clay Electric strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes, but there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst — your co-op's linemen.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, the linemen often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line



crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems.

In our coverage area, Clay Electric linemen are responsible for keeping more than 13,000 miles of distribution and transmission lines across 14 counties working in order to bring power to your home and our local businesses 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that linemen use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

If you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

GenerLink switches are available again

While Clay Electric strives to maintain a high level of service reliability, severe weather can cause interruption in service.

To aid members in coping with power outages, the co-op is offering the GenerLink emergency transfer switch. The switch provides a quick, safe and easy way for you to connect portable generators to your home's electric system.

The switch is a five-inch device that is installed behind the electric meter by co-op personnel. GenerLink eliminates the hassle of running multiple extension cords or the limited use of appliances. It also detects when a generator is operating and automatically disconnects from our distribution system, which eliminates the danger of backfeeding.

With the device, nearly any appliance (up to the capacity of the generator) can be run by simply energizing appliances from the breaker panel.

The GenerLink emergency transfer switch is available in 40-amp models for single-phase service with a 200-amp or smaller meter base. You will need to know what plug type your generator has to ensure the proper cord is provided. A list of compatible generators can be found at www.generlink.com.

A GenerLink 40-amp switch with a 20-foot cord is \$700 plus tax, and includes installation. A switch and cord with surge protection installed is \$800 plus tax. The purchase will be applied as a one-time charge on your power bill.

For more information, or to order a GenerLink switch, contact the co-op's Energy Services Division by email at energyservices@clayelectric.com.