

Knowledge Is Power, But It Won't Keep The Lights On

(NAPSA)—Being prepared means being in control to maintain peace of mind. There is nowhere to hide from seasonal storms but, because they are coming regardless, it is possible to get ready to face them head-on. Increased dependence on electronics has changed the look of storm safety checklists, so it is a good idea to review some new tips.

- **Be sure devices are charged so they are ready for use.** A true testament to how hurricane preparedness has changed in the last two decades, electronic devices have become a much more critical part of our lives. As the forecast becomes more serious, get all necessary gadgets powered up and use only as needed.

- **Have a family communication plan.** Ideally, everyone will have fully charged devices, but if they don't and family members are separated, have a plan to check in and share status updates. Text messages use less bandwidth than phone calls, so set up a group text for single message check-ins. Keep a paper copy of important contact numbers in addition to all the contact information stored on a cell phone.

Identify someone outside the community who can serve as a point of contact if communication within the area is cut off. If local lines are jammed as the result of a disaster, it can actually be easier to make a long-distance call to someone in another area.

- **Be sure the hurricane kit includes a battery-operated radio.** It will be important to save power on phones and tablets, so don't waste it getting news updates online. Dig out the old AM/FM transistor and make sure the batteries are fresh.

- **Get the gas tank filled up.** If power goes out for an extended period, gas stations will be challenged without use of their digital pumps. Take action ahead of time to avoid what is sure to be a chaotic scene.



- **Install a backup generator.** Home standby generators like the Guardian Series by Generac turn on automatically when the power goes out and will stay on until power is restored. They don't require refueling so there is no need to worry about the gas station situation. A sense of safety and normalcy can be restored within moments after the power goes out.

"Severe weather puts a lot of stress on a homeowner, but a standby generator reduces that stress," explained Jodi Marose, Generac Power Systems, Inc. spokesperson. "Maintaining power allows you to maintain a sense of normalcy as you navigate your way through the aftermath of the storm."

Homes and families come in different sizes and so do generators. Generac.com has a sizing calculator that will recommend the best generator for the user's backup power needs. Household items can be identified to keep specific items running during an outage, from furnace and refrigerator to sauna and hot tub. Live representatives are available to chat online or backup plans can be designed and sent via e-mail.

Jeff Friges from Ashland, Ohio owns a Guardian Series 11kW. "I've had it for over a year now and it just sits there quietly until it's called upon when the power goes out. Then it turns into a power-pumping monster without hesitation. One of the best investments for my family and my home."

Learn More

For more facts and advice, visit www.Generac.com or call (888) GENERAC.