

What Is Electricity Resilience During Hurricanes?

Climate change is bringing stronger, more frequent hurricanes to Nova Scotia. These storms can cause long power outages and damage to properties, roads, and power lines.

Electricity resilience during hurricanes means getting ready before storms hit so we can keep the lights on, stay safe, and recover faster. This is part of climate change adaptation.

Why Hurricane Preparedness Helps Keep Power On

Stronger storms are now part of life. Preparing your property helps not only your household, but the grid, itself. Here are a few ways this happens:

- Protects your health and safety during power outages.
- Reduces line damage and time without power for your household, including damage from trees.
- Supports neighbours by sharing resources, such as using backup power, and keeping each other informed.
- Helps communities and power systems bounce back faster after storms, by easing the pressure on the electricity system.

How to Prepare Your Property for Hurricanes

Taking action now is part of building electricity resilience.

BEFORE THE STORM: Get Ready

- Use surge protectors and unplug electronics to avoid damage.
- In advance of the storm, lower your fridge and freezer temperatures to keep food cold longer if power goes out.
- Secure or store outdoor items like patio furniture, trampolines and garbage bins.
- Trim tree branches safely and clear gutters to reduce wind and flood risks.
- Make a plan for people in your home who rely on electricity (medical devices, mobility aids).
- Have a communication plan to report emergencies if the power goes out or damage occurs.
- Prepare and keep your emergency kit nearby with food, water, medications, and a flashlight.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 70% of outages are caused by trees on the line. Making sure vegetation is away from the lines prevents this from happening.

RESILIENCE TIP

Add backup power options like solar chargers or portable batteries. Over time, consider upgrades like weather-resistant roofing or a sump pump to reduce future damage.



DURING THE STORM: Stay Safe, Stay Indoors

- Stay indoors, away from windows and doors.
- If the power goes out:
 - Use battery-powered lights (not candles) to avoid fire risk.
 - Avoid opening your fridge or freezer to keep food cold.
 - Monitor updates using a battery-powered radio or the NS Power outage map.

RESILIENCE TIP

Share updates with neighbours who may not have power or internet access. Community care is part of resilience.

AFTER THE STORM: Recover Safely

- Treat all downed wires as live and report them to NS Power immediately.
- Call a licensed electrician if your home's power connection is damaged.
- Turn appliances back on one at a time to avoid power surges.
- Throw out any food that may have spoiled—when in doubt, toss it.
- Check for mould, floodwater damage, and structural issues before re-entering flooded areas.

RESILIENCE TIP

After every storm, review what worked and what didn't. Each small improvement helps build resilience for the next storm.

Why This Matters for Electricity Adaptation

Hurricanes can cause millions of dollars in damage to properties and power systems in Nova Scotia. Preparing your property helps protect your property, reduces the risk of damage to the power grid, and helps the community recover faster.

Learn More:



DID YOU KNOW?

The cost of hurricanes is increasing. This includes the cost of repairing the electricity grid.

Hurricane Juan (2003): \$17.2 million

Hurricane Dorian (2019): \$38.9 million

Hurricane Fiona (2022): \$114.0 million



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