



2018

Hurricane Season
Gets an Early Start

Stay
Prepared



While last year's Atlantic storm season was among the strongest, the first named 2018 storm, Sub-tropical Storm Alberto, disrupted Memorial Day plans for many Floridians before the new season even began! The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) urges residents to get and stay prepared for the 2018 hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30.

During Sub-tropical Storm Alberto, making landfall on May 28, the PSC manned the energy support function in the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Staff coordinated storm responses and provided information and assistance to a variety of federal and state agencies at the EOC. Utility outage reports were posted and updated frequently on the PSC's website and on Twitter, @floridapsc, to keep customers updated.

"Hurricane preparedness should top our to-do lists," reminded PSC Chairman Art Graham in a May 21 news release.

"Preparation is the best protection against dangerous storms. Build an emergency storm supply kit, gather important utility contact information, and prepare your home to help keep your family protected."

The PSC's website has planning tools to assist consumers with hurricane season preparation. The PSC's "Hurricane House," in English and Spanish, includes 19 preparation tips for your home and your family, from planning an evacuation route, to installing carbon monoxide detectors and dealing with downed power lines. You can also find consumer tips on making a hurricane kit, as well as a on storm preparation.

The PSC also ensures the state's electric utilities are prepared for storm season. Utility storm plans are designed to minimize outages and help communities, businesses, and families return to normalcy as quickly as possible. The plans include these PSC-mandated storm preparedness initiatives:

- ◆ facility inspections, maintenance, and repairs;
- ◆ vegetation management;
- ◆ flooding and storm surge mitigation;
- ◆ wooden pole inspections; and
- ◆ coordination with other utilities, government, and community groups.

In October 2017, the PSC opened a docket to review utilities' storm preparation and restoration experiences. Information was gathered in the docket and through utility presentations at a PSC workshop on May 2-3. The information was used to complete a report, with findings to further reduce outages and restoration times, that will be considered at the Commission's [June 19 Internal Affairs Meeting](#).

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The May workshop agenda, fact sheet on storm preparedness and restoration initiatives, and utility presentations can be found here.

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You can view the archived workshop video here.