# Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for 2021

Jorge Puentes

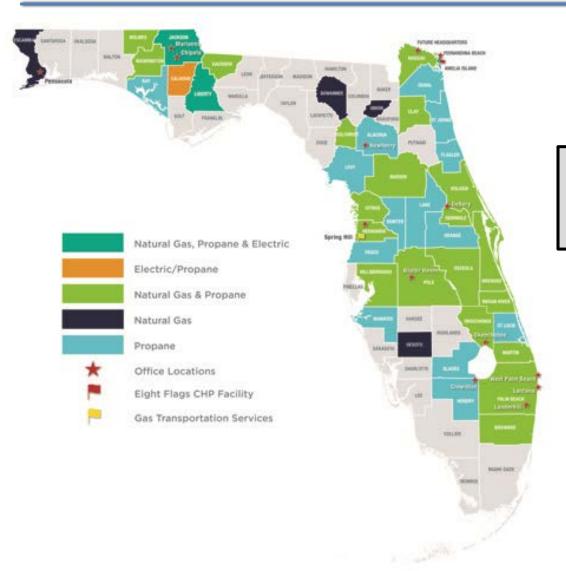
Manager, Technical Engineering

May 19, 2021





## Florida Public Utilities Company Service Areas



#### Service territory includes:

- Over 28,000 electric customers.
- 15.8 miles of transmission lines.
- 902 miles of distribution lines.

# Overview of Preparation and Restoration Process

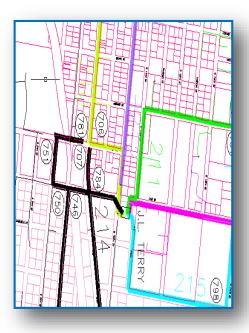
**Preparation** 

**Activation** 

Restoration







#### **Preparation**

### **Pre-Storm Planning**

- Culture of preparedness safety first.
- COVID-19 preventive measures
  - FPU Pandemic Procedures
  - Working conditions and logistics
  - Additional PPE
  - Customer interfaces
  - Mutual Aid Implications
- Response planning and company wide readiness exercises including electric, natural gas and propane operations.
  - Company wide table top drill scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May & July 12, 2021
  - Focus on lessons learned from Hurricane Michael and other hurricanes
  - Improved procedures in logistics



#### **Preparation**

### **Pre-Storm Planning**

- Customer Outreach Programs
  - Hurricane/Storm Brochures
  - Website Information & Bill Inserts
  - Public Service Announcements
- Emergency Procedures, Storm and Communication Plans.
- Consider alternative staging options depending on storm path.
- Review staff assignments for Operations, IT and Customer Care.
- Engage with contractors who have signed restoration agreements to ensure their support.





#### **Preparation**

## **Pre-Storm Planning**

- System, facility and inventory inspections
  - Emergency materials and supplies included in emergency plan
  - Emergency items ordered and stocked prior hurricane season
- Coordination with city/county/state EOCs and other utilities
  - Ongoing communications with each organization
  - Participation occurs at all meetings
- Participation with the Southeastern Electric Exchange Mutual Assistance Committee
- Mutual Assistance agreements various municipalities within Florida
- Participation in Edison Electric Institute Storm Drills





#### **Activation**

## **Electric, Natural Gas and Propane**



- Storm Watch initial activation.
- Duties and assignments reviewed.
- Inventory levels, logistics items, meals, hotels and outside vendors confirmed.
- Equipment, fuel and inventory levels checked for readiness.
- Storm Warning active
- Secure our buildings/facilities.
- Contact county EOCs, other local officials, contractors, and energy partners (SEE).
- Employees activate their family storm plans.
- Redeploy Call Center resources.



#### Restoration

### Systematic Approach



- OMS and SCADA systems organize/prioritize restoration.
- Physical damage survey.
- Team external crews with FPU crew leaders.
- Tree crews sent ahead to remove debris and clear areas.
- Restoration Priority Electric System:
  - Generation (Eight Flags, Inc)
  - Transmission (FPL Interconnection)
  - Substations
  - Distribution Feeders
- Restoration Priority Customers:
  - Hospitals
  - Police, Fire and EOC
  - Storm Shelters and Elderly Care Facilities
  - Water and Sewer Plants
  - Food Retailers and Restaurants



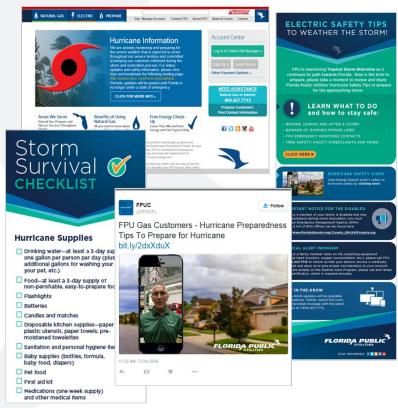
#### Customer Communication- Awareness Pre-Storm

In preparation for the storm, FPU publishes watch and warning notifications at the 72, 48 and 12 hour increments to local and national media outlets.

Received the 34th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference "2020 Public Education/Public Information Award" for Florida Public Utilities' innovative and effective communications and public resources that enhance hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in the state of Florida.



- Bill Inserts
- Print Ads
- Brochures
- IVR Messaging
- Press Releases
- E-Blasts
- Social Media Posts
- Website Updates
- Public Service Announcements



# **Digital Communications**

#### All Digital Communications Linked to One Main Update Landing Page

#### FPUC.com and mobile website









#### [October 20, 2018- 12:00 pm]

#### ATTENTION ALL FPU NORTHWEST TERRITORY CUSTOMERS:

For information and resources related to Power Restoration, please visit FPUC.com/hurricanerestorationresources. Learn about:

- Electric Rules and Standards
- Customer / Utility Responsibilities
- Steps to Restore Power
- Electrical / HVAC Contractors in the Area
- Frequently Asked Questions

#### Social Media Sites







Write a comment...

# **Storm** Hardening

#### **Plans and Initiatives**

- Vegetation Management:
  - Three year trim cycle for all distribution feeders (4.33 Total cycles completed)
  - Six year trim cycle for distribution laterals (2.17 Total cycles completed)
  - Three year trim cycle for transmission lines
- Accomplishments in 2020:
  - Trimmed 23.11 miles of distribution feeders
  - Trimmed 70.77 miles of distribution laterals.
  - Perform "hot spot" distribution trimming prior to hurricane season. Miles trimmed are included in totals above.





# Storm Hardening

#### **Plans and Initiatives**

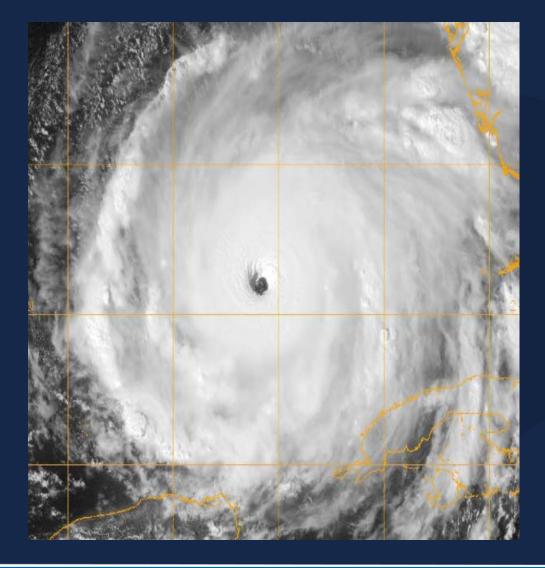
- Wood Pole Inspection:
  - Eight year cycle (1.63 Total cycles completed)
  - Transmission and Distribution inspections on the same cycle
  - Total poles inspected from beginning of this eight year cycle 18,289
  - During 2020:
    - Total of 4,291 poles inspected.
    - Poles replaced 130
  - Poles that need to be replaced in upcoming years 262.



## Suggested Improvements Based on Lessons Learned



- Include record keepers with each crew working to document labor, materials and equipment used during restoration.
- Increase security at offices and staging areas to prevent unauthorized individuals from entry
- Locate storage areas for pre-staging that are easily accessible, not subject to flooding and large enough for all equipment.
- Continue to invest in all Storm Hardening initiatives
- Continue to invest in technology that advances hurricane prediction and communications.
- Continue to improve GIS,OMS, IVR implementations and other technologies.



# Questions?

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