

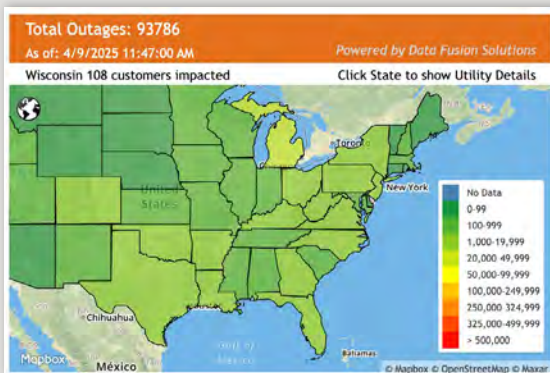
**GENERAC**<sup>®</sup>

# Residential Storm Preparedness Guide



# Table of contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
<b>2026 Hurricane Forecast</b> .....	3
<b>Your Home Energy &amp; Power Options</b> .....	4
Backup Power Options.....	5
Generac Home Energy System.....	6
Portable Generator Safety.....	7
Whole Home Standby Generators.....	8
Monitoring Fuel Levels.....	9
Solar + Solar Battery Storage.....	10
<b>Hurricane Safety Tips</b> .....	11
Getting Prepared.....	12
Food Safety.....	13
Child Safety.....	13
Pet Safety.....	14
Before the Storm.....	15
During the Storm.....	16
After the Storm.....	17
<b>Put Preparation Into Action</b> .....	18
Emergency Kits.....	19
Important Contact Info.....	20
Family Medical Form.....	21
Home Inventory Form.....	22
<b>Emergency Contact Info</b> .....	23
24/7 Generac Support.....	23
FEMA.....	23
Food Safety.....	23
CDC.....	23



Stay on top of outages with our **Power Outage Central** for a state-by-state overview of current outage activity.

Visit [www.generac.com/outages](http://www.generac.com/outages).

# Prepare with purpose. Power through with confidence.

Hurricanes and severe storms may be inevitable. But being without power doesn't have to be.

When weather threatens to disrupt daily life, being well prepared now makes all the difference. Not just stocking up on supplies – but knowing you have a plan in place to help keep your family safe, and your home comfortable and connected.

The fact is, power outages can be more than just a little inconvenient. Lack of essentials like refrigeration or air conditioning, especially for extended periods during the hottest months, can create serious risks for anyone.

With more than 65 years of home backup power expertise and a growing lineup of connected energy solutions, we're here to help you stay steady, supported and ready – no matter what the season brings.

**80% of U.S. power outages**  
in the past 20+ years have been weather related.

<https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/weather-related-power-outages-rising>



# Know what could be coming your way.

## 2026 Hurricane Forecast

A new hurricane season brings a familiar question: are you ready if the chaos crosses your path? While no two storm seasons are the same, your priority remains unchanged – to protect what matters most.

**For the 2026 hurricane season, the Colorado State University (CSU) Tropical Meteorology Project Team predicts below-normal activity that could yield:**

- **13** named storms
- **6** hurricanes
- At least **2 major hurricanes** (Category 3 or higher)

Even with a below-normal outlook, it only takes one landfall – along the Atlantic or Gulf coast – to make it an active season where you live. And recent history is a clear reminder of the devastation that hurricanes can deliver even far beyond the shoreline.

**Hurricanes Helene & Milton caused:**

**9.5+ million**  
power outages  
at storm peaks

**\$113+ billion**  
in damages

A quieter 2026 forecast may feel reassuring, but preparation isn't about predictions. It's about being ready for what's possible well before these storms have a name.

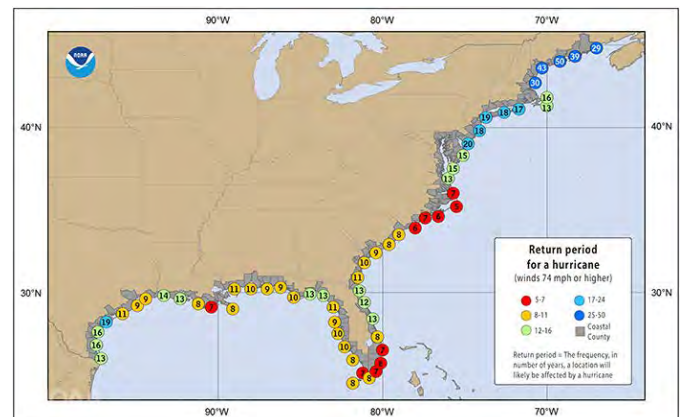
## Are you in a high-risk area?

Hurricanes don't have to make landfall where you live to disrupt your routine – or your life. NOAA's "hurricane return period" analysis estimates how often a hurricane can be expected to pass within 50 nautical miles of a specific location.

The highest-frequency areas for hurricanes of any category include coastal North Carolina, south Florida and southeast Louisiana, about every five to seven years.

### Probabilities for at least one major hurricane landfall (Category 3–4–5) in 2026:

- **32%** for the entire U.S. coastline
- **5%** for the U.S. East Coast, including the Florida Peninsula
- **20%** for the Gulf Coast, Florida panhandle to Brownsville, Texas



**Data sources:**

<https://tropical.colostate.edu/forecasting.html>

<https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/hurricane-costs.html>  
[poweroutage.us](https://poweroutage.us)

**SECTION 02:**

# Your home backup power & energy options



**5.4+ million hours of runtime**  
by Generac Whole Home Standby Generators  
reported during Hurricanes Helene & Milton.\*

\*For FL, GA, SC, NC, TN, KY, VA, WV, OH, IN from 9/26/2024 – 10/24/2024

# Planning ahead starts here.

Power needs vary by home, lifestyle and how you want to prepare for outages. Choose the approach that fits best.



	<b>Portable Power Stations</b> <i>Ideal for apartments &amp; condos</i>	<b>Portable Generators</b> <i>For emergencies &amp; on the go</i>	<b>Solar + Storage</b> <i>Backup &amp; savings, powered by the sun</i>	<b>Whole Home Standby Generator</b> <i>Permanent peace of mind</i>
Uses	Clean, quiet, emission-free power with no fumes or fuel. Also great for camping and tailgating.	Additional non-emergency uses: camping, job sites, tailgating.	Whole home or essential circuit backup power.	Whole home or essential circuit backup power.
Starting	A simple ON/OFF button.	Must be home when the power goes out to start and connect almost all portable generators.	Automatically provides backup power when utility power is lost, whether you're home or away.	Automatically provides backup power when utility power is lost, whether you're home or away.
Connecting	Ports on the unit itself offer numerous connection options, including 2 USB-A and 2 USB-C receptacles in addition to AC, DC and a wireless charging pad.	Can be connected to individual appliances via extension cord or must be connected to the home via a manual transfer switch for whole home/specific circuit backup.	Permanently connected to your home's electrical system.	Permanently connected to your home's electrical system.
Refueling	No refueling necessary. Simply recharge the unit by connecting to a wall outlet when power returns. The unit also supports recharging with the available solar panels or connection to a car or generator.	Must be refueled every 6-12 hours, depending on loads and size of fuel tank. Fueling options include gasoline and liquid propane.	No refueling necessary. The system charges automatically when solar power is available or grid power is restored.	No refueling necessary if connected to a natural gas line or propane tank.
Capacity	Able to power smaller, specific devices, such as a kitchen appliance, laptop or phone. Can also be paralleled for additional capacity and backup power.	A wide range of options for every need, including smaller units that can be paralleled for additional power, or units large enough to provide whole home backup when paired with a manual transfer switch.	Can power the whole home for a shorter duration, or select circuits for longer.	Now available in units that range from 10kW up to 28kW to fit your home and specific backup power needs.
Monitoring	With no refueling and zero maintenance, no monitoring is necessary.	Must monitor operation in person.	Monitor system status, solar production, battery charge, home energy use and more anytime, anywhere, with the mobile app.	Built-in cellular connectivity allows you to remotely monitor performance and control your generator whether you're home or away.

# Powerful alone. Brilliant together.

As you prepare your home for potential outages, it's helpful to understand how some solutions in this guide are intentionally designed to work together for even greater protection during extended outages.

Combining Generac solar + storage solutions with our whole home standby generator provides virtually **unlimited backup power\***, so you stay comfortable and connected – for days or even weeks at a time.

- PWRcell 2 stores energy from solar panels, the grid or a generator. During an outage, stored energy can be used to power your home.
- As stored energy depletes, the generator will automatically power your home and recharge the battery.



*\*Depending on fuel availability*

This unlimited backup power solution is just one possible combination of the **Generac Home Energy System**: an ecosystem that combines smart technologies to help you manage backup power more efficiently and to use energy on your terms.



# Portable generator **safety**

Using a portable generator for emergency power? Always keep basic guidelines in mind and be sure to follow the instructions in the owner's manual first.

## Never run it indoors

This includes garages or other partly enclosed areas.

**Carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill in minutes.**

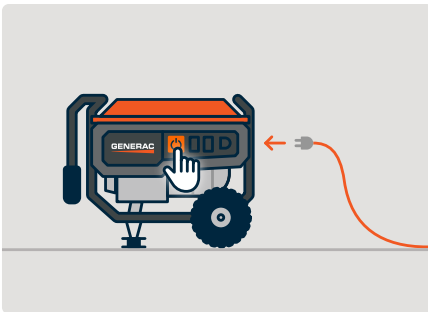
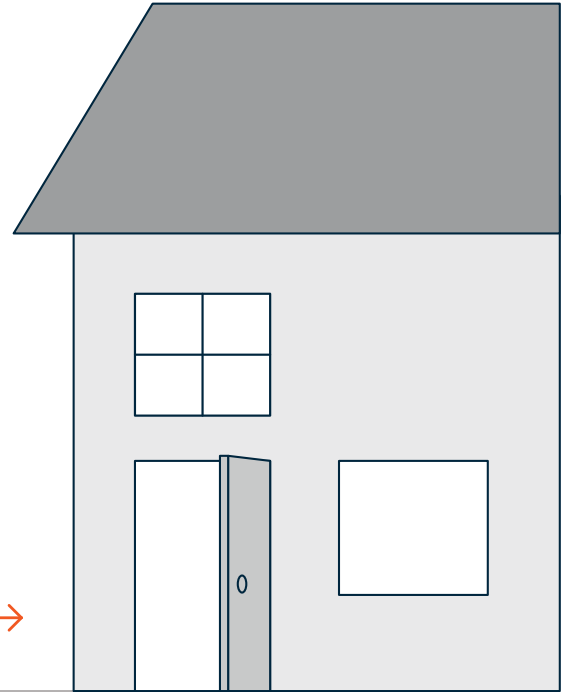
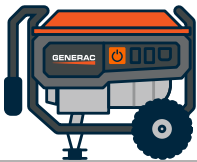
## Avoid electrocution and shock hazards

Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.

## Give it space

Place unit far away from windows, doors and vents to prevent carbon monoxide exposure. Allow sufficient clearance on all sides when operating to prevent overheating and fire.

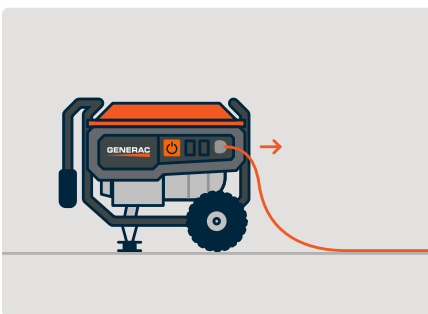
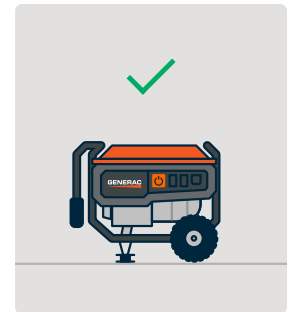
## Keep children away at all times



Only plug in any cord to generator **after it's running**



**Keep it level:** Only operate on a flat, debris-free surface with a clearance of five feet on all sides to allow for proper ventilation



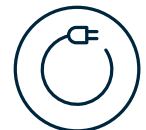
Be sure to remove all cords **before shutting down**



**Don't run in direct rain**



**Don't run in standing water**



Ensure cords are **undamaged and properly sized**



## Keep your whole home standby generator ready to **power on.**

Before Mother Nature throws her worst your way, it's best to ensure your generator is ready to power your home – and your comfort.

- Clear debris and any obstructions away from the generator with at least 3 ft. of clearance on each side.
- Ensure the inside of the enclosure is free of debris (leaves, sticks, dirt, etc.).
- Inspect lines and connections for fuel or oil leaks.
- Inspect the entire fuel system for signs of corrosion or other concerns.
- Be sure to check your battery for proper charge and clean terminals, air filter, spark plugs and sediment trap.
- Watch the oil level, especially if your generator is running continuously.

### The real cost of power outages

Lodging costs  
per night

**\$110**

Restock  
refrigerator

**\$250**

Flooded  
basement

**\$26,807**

*Hotels.com, Fema.gov "Big cost of flooding" <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/181549>,  
USDA: <https://www.usda.gov/>*

# Get fully fueled and storm ready

## Monitoring liquid propane (LP) fuel levels

If you use LP to fuel your standby generator, ensuring you have enough to power through days – even weeks – of outages can be an overlooked seasonal checklist item. Save yourself the cost of emergency fuel deliveries, spoiled refrigerator food replacement and extended hotel stays by avoiding an insufficient fuel supply.

### Don't wait until the last minute

Schedule fuel delivery for your home standby generator before your dealer is deluged with last minute storm prep calls. And ensure you have what you need for your home, when you need it most.

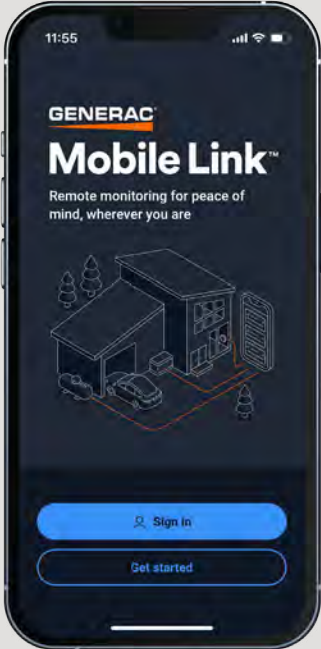
### Use the Generac LTE Fuel Monitor

Measure the remaining fuel level in any propane tank no matter what LP appliances (furnaces, water heaters, ovens, etc.) are connected. Plan for deliveries and protect yourself against run-out with:

- Easy installation in under 5 minutes on any above-or below-ground tank.
- Mobile Link integration to see your tank level in real-time, from anywhere via phone/computer.
- Text and email notifications that alert you when your tank level drops below a certain threshold.
- Peace of mind that you will always be prepared for the storm and protected against run outs.

### Don't rely on manual tank checks alone

From the dangers of being out in the elements to the simple fact that LP appliances are running when nobody's home, manual checks can be unreliable and should only be part of your plan. Not your whole plan.



**Don't wait until the last minute**

Tank monitoring is the easiest, most reliable way to help you ensure you always have enough propane to weather the storm.



# Preparing your solar + battery storage system for hurricane season.

Modern solar and battery storage systems are designed for durability and reliability in the face of severe weather with little or no maintenance required. But here are a few simple steps to help ensure your system will be ready when you need it most.

## Before hurricane season

- **Schedule a pre-season inspection:** Have a qualified professional check mounting hardware, wiring, seals and signs of corrosion.
- **Trim nearby trees:** Cut back anything overhanging or within striking distance of your array.
- **Document your system:** Photograph panels, racking, inverter and battery system for insurance purposes.
- **Review warranties and insurance coverage:** Confirm your homeowner's policy ahead of time.
- **Review circuits:** Review the circuits backed up by your battery storage system.

## During hurricane season

- **Keep outdoor batteries clear:** Remove leaves and debris around your battery components for proper ventilation and access.
- **Ensure battery is fully charged:** Maintain a full battery charge to maximize backup capabilities in the event of a grid outage.

### Did you know?



Solar panels today are tested to handle wind speeds up to **140 mph** and **1" hail impacts at 51mph**. Plus, properly installed panels add a layer of roof protection.

*\*Generac does not manufacture or sell solar panels.*

### Outage Guard

PWRcell 2 owners can enable the Outage Guard feature, which monitors weather forecasts and **automatically charges your battery** to full capacity when severe weather is expected in your area.



## SECTION 03:

# Hurricane safety tips



**Outages have nearly doubled.**

The last decade has brought about twice as many weather-related outages as the early 2000s.

# Be prepared. Take action.

The best time to prepare for a storm is well before it happens. Stay ahead of any weather event with the supplies and information you need to keep you and yours ready for anything.

## Start now

- Identify the safest location in your home to wait out a storm and review emergency plans for evacuation and local authority recommendations.
- Identify your nearest evacuation centers. As an alternative, create a list of options with friends outside of the forecasted storm area.
- Create a communication plan, designate primary and backup meeting places and gather maps in case mobile service is down.



### Photograph your possessions

- Start with your most expensive items (both inside and outside the home).
- Show items closeup and in their location with the date and value.
- Include wills, proof of insurance, receipts and other vital documents.



### Working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives

- Interconnected CO alarms are best; when one sounds, they all sound.
- Install both on each level and outside separate sleeping areas.
- Test alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.

**Never ignore an alarm. Get outside immediately when it sounds. Then call 911.**

Source: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## Do you have an emergency kit?

For a list of what to pack ahead of time and how much, see page 19 of this guide.



# Ready for the storm. And the days that follow.

Storms are unpredictable, but they don't need to catch you off guard. Here are a few simple ways to stay one step ahead.

## Food safety

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food in your refrigerator is safe to eat for only four hours without electricity. Beyond that, they recommend discarding meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers.

However, a full freezer will hold a safe temperature for 48 hours (24 hours if half full). These times are only true if the appliance door remains closed. It's important to adhere to these guidelines during and after a power outage:

- Keep your refrigerator closed.
- Use a thermometer to check if food is 40 degrees or below before consuming.
- Consider backup options to power your refrigerator, especially during long outages.

## Child safety

Help keep children as calm as possible before, during and after a hurricane with a little guidance and reassurance to ease fears and stress.

## Constant communication

- Talk about your safety or evacuation plans before a storm arrives.
- Let them help gather supplies and feel part of the process.
- Keep in constant communication during a storm or hurricane. Talk through what you're experiencing and share your plans for what happens after the storm.

## Child-friendly evacuation kit

- Pack water, snacks and first aid items including bandages and antibiotic ointment.
- Include toys, games and other comfort items that don't require power.

## Living in an apartment or condo?

Consider Portable Power Stations: they produce zero emissions, are safe for indoor use and the GB2000 can power a 120W refrigerator for up to 24 hours.\*

*\*Model and use case can vary*





## Pet safety

When preparing for a hurricane, keep your four-legged family members in mind as well. The ASPCA estimates one third of cat and dog owners don't have a disaster plan in place for their animals, leading to last-minute stress during evacuation situations.

**Please remember:** Not all hotels or shelters accept pets. If you decide to stay home, continue to monitor any evacuation notices.

### Emergency kits should include:

- 7 days food and water (with a can opener, if needed)
- Medication for one week
- Pet carrier/kennel
- Extra leash
- Photo of you and your pet together to prove ownership
- Pet ID tags, rabies vaccination tag and collar
- Medical or vaccination records to share with a pet friendly shelter

### Additional tips include:

- Getting your pet microchipped (talk to your vet)
- Placing a rescue alert sticker on your door if you shelter in place letting responders know there's a pet inside
- Writing "EVACUATED" on any alert sticker if you choose to leave
- Slowly reintroducing your pet(s) to a disheveled home if you evacuated to reduce stress and unknown dangers

### If you have an aquarium

To maintain the delicate balance in an aquarium, you must keep your filtration system and heater running 24/7. Whether the outage lasts for a few hours or a few days, here are several things you can do to minimize damage:

- Unplug your filter and rinse it before restarting.
- Maintain stable water temperature by covering the tank with a blanket.
- Make up for lost oxygen with a battery-powered air pump.
- Have a Generac generator to keep the power on.



# Before the storm

## Make the most of your preparation time

- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water for sanitation purposes.
- Turn off and properly secure outdoor grill propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances in the rooms you do not plan to use during a storm.
- Charge cell phones.
- Check the yard and landscaping for any trees that should be trimmed, clear gutters and bring in outside items if they can be picked up by high winds.
- Fill gas cans in the event of an evacuation or to run a portable generator.
- Use hurricane shutters or board up windows and doors with  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch plywood.
- Reinforce garage doors using a door bracing kit.

### How long do you have to prepare?



#### When a watch is issued

This means conditions are favorable to produce potentially dangerous weather in your area within 48 hours or less.



#### When a warning is issued

Severe conditions have been observed and potentially dangerous weather is imminent in or near your area within 36 hours or less.

Source: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)



# During the storm

## Should you stay or should you go?

### Consider leaving

- Prepare to depart if you live in a manufactured or mobile home, or your home was built prior to current hurricane building standards.
- Leave if your home is vulnerable to a storm surge or flooding.
- If an evacuation has been issued, leave immediately.

### When evacuating

- Know where you're going. Plan primary and alternative routes ahead of time.
- Create an evacuation destination with a backup location in mind.
- Listen to orders at least twice to determine driving directions.
- Grab your emergency kit in anticipation of long power outages.
- Bring backup maps/directions in the event mobile services aren't available.
- Unplug appliances, turn off water at the main valve and deactivate electricity at the breaker box.
- Pack your vehicle and go to your designated evacuation spot or backup location.
- Turn on the radio to stay tuned to emergency bulletins.
- Stick to evacuation routes.

### When sheltering in place

- Cover all windows with permanent storm shutters or 5/8-inch exterior grade marine plywood.
- Take refuge in a small, interior room or closet in the lowest level of your home. Avoid windows and glass doors.
- Stay tuned to updates and have a battery-powered emergency radio on hand.
- Save phone battery as much as possible.
- Unplug all devices from outlets during outages to reduce power surge damage.
- If flooding nears the home, turn off all electricity.
- Evacuate immediately if given the order OR if the home is damaged.

**Never operate a generator indoors (including a garage) even with windows open. Carbon monoxide gas is odorless, colorless and can be deadly within minutes.**



# After the storm

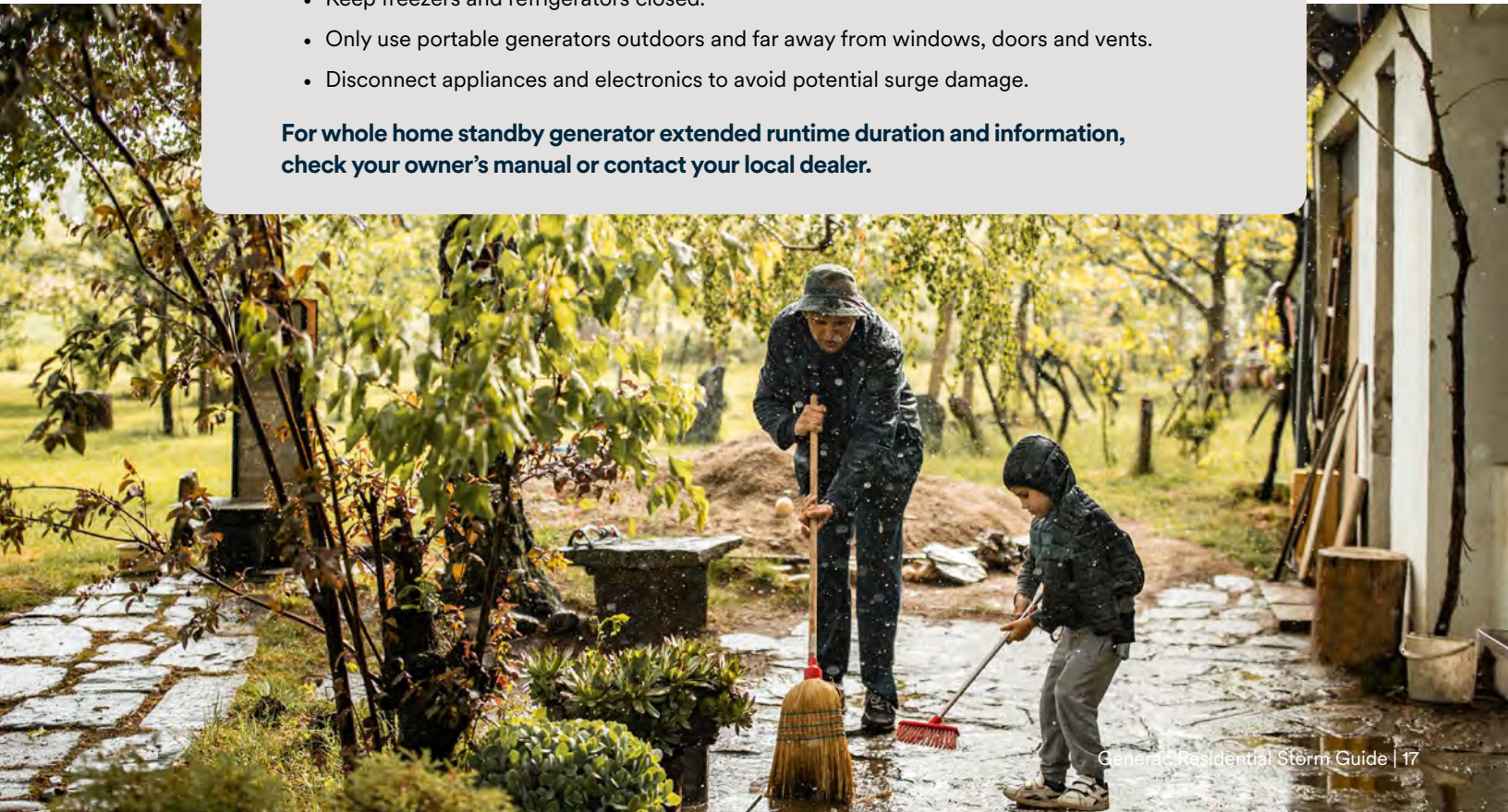
## Return safe and with a plan to resume everyday life

- **Do not** return before local authorities recommend.
- Whether sheltered in place or returning, stay alert for potential damage and dangers – including post-storm rain that can produce flooding.
- If your home was seriously damaged, leave immediately and contact local officials.
- If you suspect a gas leak, leave immediately and report it to local authorities.
- Check on neighbors.
- Report downed power lines to the utility company and local police/fire departments.
- Take photos of your home, yard and street.
- Contact your insurance.
- Do not drive on closed roads – avoid flash-flooding or downed power lines.
- Consider hiring contractors to clean up large debris to avoid personal injury.
- Keep receipts for possible reimbursement through insurance or government programs.
- If power is out, unplug all major appliances before turning the electricity back on to minimize possible surge damage.
- If your home flooded, have a professional electrician check the residence before turning electricity on.
- Save all phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often downed or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

### In case of extended power outages

- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Only use portable generators outdoors and far away from windows, doors and vents.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid potential surge damage.

**For whole home standby generator extended runtime duration and information, check your owner's manual or contact your local dealer.**



**SECTION 04:**

# Put preparation into action



**8 out of 10**

Whole Home Standby Generators  
installed are Generac.

# Emergency kit checklist

## Food

- 7-day supply of non-perishables per person
- Manual can opener for food
- Disposable plates, cups, utensils
- Napkins or paper towels
- Cookware to boil water
- Propane tanks for your grill so you can cook

## Water

- Three gallons of water per person, per day for both drinking and sanitation (FEMA recommends a 5-day supply)

## First Aid

- Fully stocked first aid kit
- Additional prescriptions or essential medicine
- List of current medications and allergies
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Fire extinguisher
- Extra cash in case ATMs are down

## Lighting

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Utility lighter
- Wrench and pliers to turn off utilities
- A large light source (e.g. lantern)

## Communication

- Battery-powered AM/FM radio
- NOAA hazard-alert radio
- Car or emergency charger for mobile devices
- Cell phone
- Small notepads and pencils
- Games and activities that don't require electricity
- A whistle to signal for help
- Extra batteries

## Baby Needs

- Bottles and formula
- Two-week supply of diapers
- Baby wipes and diaper rash ointment

## Transportation

- Maps of local and state roads
- Directions to nearby shelters
- Spare tire or tire patch kit
- Emergency roadside flares or triangles
- List of local services and contact information

## Sanitation & Personal Care

- Trash bags
- Disinfectant wipes or gels
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Spare set of clothes and shoes for each person
- One blanket per person
- Personal, feminine care items
- Soaps and shampoos
- Dust masks, plastic sheeting, duct tape, plastic ties

## Pet Needs

- One week of food and water
- Leash and a crate or carrier
- Bed, dishes, toys
- Any medications
- Battery-operated air pump for aquarium
- Vet's contact information
- Waste bags
- Photo of you and your pet for proof of ownership

# Family contact information

Contact Information	
Out-of-Town Contact:	Contact Number:
Evacuation Center:	Phone Number:
Local Meeting Spot:	Phone Number:

Family Member Information	
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:
Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth:	Special Note:

Where We Might Be	
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:
Family Member: Location 1: Address: Phone Number:	Location 2: Address: Phone Number:

## Resources

Provide the following for each family member and update with any changes.

Important Contacts	Company Name	Phone Number	Policy Number
Medical Insurance			
Homeowner's Insurance			
Veterinarian			

# Family medication form

Print out and complete for each family member. This form is for: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicinal Allergies	
Medication Name	Reaction

Current Prescriptions					
Medication Name	Doctor's Name	Doctor's Number	Reason for Treatment	Dosage (mg)	How Often I Take It

Non-Prescription Medications Including Vitamins & Supplements			
Name	Reason for Treatment	Dosage (mg)	How Often I Take It



# Reliable support when you need it most

We know that when your power goes down, anxiety can go up. Everyday tasks get more difficult. And the lack of security that you and yours can feel is very real.

As the backup power experts, we're here to provide peace of mind in the face of severe weather, unreliable grid services and any other reason power to your home might fail.

But we go beyond just providing the backup power solutions you need – we're here with the customer and technical support for your Generac products 24/7, 365 days a year.

Call us at 888-GENERAC (888-436-3722) or visit [generac.com/service-support](https://www.generac.com/service-support).

## Please keep these contacts readily available during Hurricane Season:

- **FEMA**  
[www.fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)  
800-621-3362
- **Food Safety**  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](https://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
888-674-6854
- **CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response**  
<https://emergency.cdc.gov>  
800-232-4636

**As always, dial 911 first in any emergency.**

# GENERAC®

Generac Power Systems, Inc.  
S45 W29290 Hwy. 59, Waukesha, WI 53189

1-888-GENERAC (1-888-436-3722) | REV 04/2026

©2026 Generac Power Systems. All rights reserved.  
Specifications are subject to change without notice.

