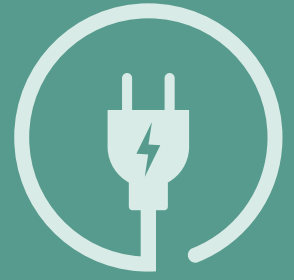


# ELECTRICAL CONCERNS DURING A DISASTER



The following safety precautions can help reduce death and injury from electricity during and after a disaster.

## FLOODED AREAS

Submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize flood waters. Take care when stepping into flooded areas.

## AT YOUR HOUSE

If a disaster is headed your way, the best practice is to turn off the power to your house through the main breaker switch, circuit breaker panel, or fuse box. At a minimum, it is recommended to unplug all unnecessary appliances. This can reduce appliance damage in the event of a power surge.

Use electrical outlets in your home that have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Installed correctly, these outlets protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks, prevent some electrical fires, and reduce the severity of fires by interrupting the flow of electric current.

## APPLIANCES

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet, including but not limited to furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers.

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association website provides information on which appliances will require complete replacement and which can be reconditioned by a trained professional.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Scan the QR Code below



## SUNNY DAY CONSIDERATION

Make your home as energy efficient as possible when purchasing new or replacement items.

- Energy efficient equipment will be especially useful during an emergency when you may be on alternative forms of power with limited supply.
- For example, a refrigerator with the EPA's Energy Star label can run on a fuel-efficient generator for 16 hours on one gallon of gas.
  - Since most refrigerators do not need to run continuously, it may be possible to run the efficient refrigerator on one gallon of gas for one or two days.

## RESOURCES

*Preparing for Natural Hazards Factsheet Number 2*

Visit our project website: [www.laseagrant.org/resources/be-prepared](http://www.laseagrant.org/resources/be-prepared)  
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