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Emergency Preparedness

Amy Zubaly
Executive Director
Florida Municipal Electric Association



Who is FMEA?

Florida Municipal Electric Association

- Statewide trade association representing Florida's 33 municipal electric utilities – public power
- Mutual Aid and Emergency Response
- Legislative & Regulatory (Tallahassee and Washington, DC)
- Networking – Conferences, workshops, roundtables
- Communication & Information Sharing – news, magazine, awards
- FMEA is NOT an electric utility!
- Located in Tallahassee



Florida Public Power

33 municipal electric utilities

1.6 million customer meters

14% Florida's population

- Large Utilities

- JEA (Jacksonville): 528,050
- Orlando: 276,751
- Lakeland: 144,166
- Tallahassee: 120,564
- Gainesville: 104,678

- Small Utilities

- Moore Haven: 1,004
- Chattahoochee: 1,135
- Blountstown: 1,319
- Bushnell: 1,650



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FMEA Role in Emergency Response

- Statewide Mutual Aid Coordinator
- Liaison between member utilities and state/federal partners
 - Governor's Office
 - State Emergency Operations Center – ESF 12
 - Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)
 - Electric Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC)
- Statewide unified PR voice on public power response and recovery

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2024 Florida Major Mutual Aid Events



- **Tallahassee tornadoes**
 - Three tornadoes
 - 80,000 customers without power
 - 430 Public Power mutual aid



- **Hurricane Debby**
 - Category 1, winds 80 mph
 - Peak outages 1.6 million, 35,000 FLPP
 - Public Power restored in less than 36 hrs.



- **Hurricane Helene**
 - Category 4, winds 140 mph
 - Peak outages 1.2 million, 255,500 FLPP
 - More than 350 public power mutual aid from 50 utilities in 11 states
 - Public Power more than 95% restored in 48 hrs.



- **Hurricane Milton**
 - Category 3, winds 120 mph
 - Peak outages 3.4 million, 280,000 FLPP
 - More than 850 public power mutual aid from 167 utilities in 23 states
 - Public Power more than 95% restored in 4 days



Planning for a Hurricane

- Florida is in cone of uncertainty
- Begin holding daily calls with members (typically 2-4 days before projected landfall)
- If out-of-state mutual aid is needed, ask APPA to hold MAC calls
 - How big/wide is the storm; How strong is the storm; Where is it going?
 - Ask Coordinators to input crew availability asap!
- Assign MA crews to requesting utility – send email
 - Primary contact information
 - Blank roster form
 - Mutual aid agreements
 - Guiding Principles
 - Emergency Orders
 - Road Use Waivers



Prestaging/Pre-positioning

- To do or not to do? – that is the question
 - How big/wide is the storm; How strong is the storm; Where is it going?
- Customer and political expectations
- Pros and cons
 - Extra help is already on site or nearby ready to come in when conditions are safe
 - What if it's not needed?
 - Who pays?



Hurricane Preparedness

- FMEA holds annual Hurricane and Storm Preparedness Workshop
- Held first ever statewide tabletop hurricane exercise in 2023
 - Included FDEM, FPSC/EOC, U.S. DOE, FEMA
- FMEA participates in national mutual aid tabletop exercises
- Industry cross sector pre-season preparedness meeting
- Member utilities hold yearly tabletops and simulated exercises – many are held city wide
- Utilities meet with local EOCs and key accounts
 - Review priority restoration list
 - Establish points of contact



Lessons Learned: Internal Preparedness

- **Develop and review Emergency Response Plan!**
- **Every** employee should have a storm role!
 - “Blue-tarp” crew, runners, photographers, logistics assistants, FEMA documenters, call center support, food servers, daycare, babysitters
- Develop relationships and work closely with local EOC
 - Review priority restoration lists
- Meet with hospitals, assisted living facilities, key accounts
 - Establish points of contact; Review expectations
- Prepare for worst case scenario!



Lessons Learned: Storm Hardening

Storm hardening is working!

- **Pole inspections**
 - 8-year cycle
 - Higher class, ductile iron, concrete
- **Vegetation Management**
 - Tree trimming done generally on three-year cycle
 - Tree heavy areas increasing setbacks
- **Undergrounding – where it makes sense**
- Trip Savers; smart grid; automatic reclosures
- **Invest in system resiliency on ongoing basis**
- Less outages/faster restoration than previous
- **Yearly reports submitted to FPSC**



Lessons Learned: Logistics are Key!

- Food
 - Do you have catering contract in place?
 - Consider local grocery stores
 - Are local restaurants open?
 - Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, water
 - Set expectations – Be clear on what you are providing!
- Lodging
 - Hotels (Meet in advance; offer generators)
 - Community centers, schools – showers, cots
 - Options may be limited because of evacuees and shelters
- Laundry
 - Consider community help
- Plan for worst case
 - What if you bring in 5x your crew?



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Lessons Learned: Sending Resources

- Prepare for worst-case scenario
 - Pay attention to weather reports and road closures
 - You may have deployed before impacts occur
- Back-up fuel – travel with fuel truck or extra
- Mechanic
- Lodging may be destroyed or limited
- Sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries
- Food may be limited – especially first 48 hrs
- Not everyone has used mutual aid before
- Provide requesting resources backup documentation
 - FEMA isn't easy



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Lessons Learned: Communication is Vital

- Prepare for PR/social storm – just as critical as primary storm
- **Photos tell a great story**
 - **Mutual aid photos important too**
- Unified approach to message and one voice
 - Work with city officials, county, legislators, key accounts
- **Pre-storm preparedness**
- **Safety tips**
 - Generator safety, downed wires, stay off roads
- **Restoration process**
 - **Priority Restoration**
 - **Why does my neighbor have power and I don't**
- **Outage reporting**
 - ETR (realistic and factual)
- **Why can't my power be restored – whose responsibility is what?**



City of Winter Park
@WinterParkFla
October 10, 2024 · 1

Working Together 🤝

As Hurricane Milton approaches, we're dedicating resources to help our community prepare. We're grateful for the support of our partners and the dedication of our staff. #WinterPark #HurricaneMilton

Lakeland Electric
@mylaidelectric
October 18, 2024 · 1

This was a week, wasn't it? Many like this lineman from @RivieraUtil undoubtedly was exhausted from 12-hour days to help restore the power to our Electric customers. A huge shout out to our linemen! @josh.baxter.148

City of Mount Dora, FL - Government
October 10, 2024 · 1

We are grateful the damage wasn't worse, and our hearts are with everyone affected by Hurricane Milton. Our Public Works crews are clearing roads, Parks and Recreation teams are maintaining facilities, and linemen are repairing the main feeders—thank you to everyone who has helped us through this. #Milton #MountDora

Kissimmee Utility Authority
November 9, 2022 · 1

When using a generator, make sure you follow these tips! Using a generator too close to your home can present a risk of electrocution to utility workers and neighbors served by the system. Visit kua.com/generatorsafety for more information.

Cuando utilice un generador, ¡asegúrese de seguir estos consejos! El uso incorrecto de un generador puede presentar un riesgo de electrocución para los trabajadores del sistema y los vecinos que reciben servicios del ... See more

See Translation

GENERATOR TIPS

If you must hook a generator to the main electrical panel, contact a qualified electrician.

Your home or business must be disconnected from KUA's electrical system, and a transfer switch must be installed to avoid "back feed" from the generator.

NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "daisy chaining."

[KUA.COM/GENERATORSAFETY](https://kua.com/generatorsafety)

CONSEJOS SOBRE GENERADOR

Si debe conectar un generador al panel eléctrico principal, consúltelo con un electricista calificado.

Su hogar o negocio debe estar desconectado del sistema eléctrico de KUA y debe instalarse un interruptor de transferencia para evitar la "retroalimentación" del generador.

NUNCA intente energizar la casa enchufando el generador a un tomacorriente de pared, una práctica conocida como "retroalimentación".

[KUA.COM/GENERATORSAFETY](https://kua.com/generatorsafety)

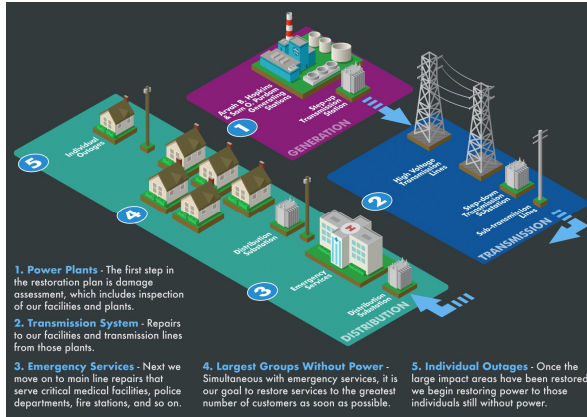
Lakeland Electric
October 18, 2024 · 1

Hazards such as hanging tree limbs remain as cleanup efforts continue, which could cause short-term outages. #HurricaneMilton

City of Troy - Utilities
October 2, 2022 · 1

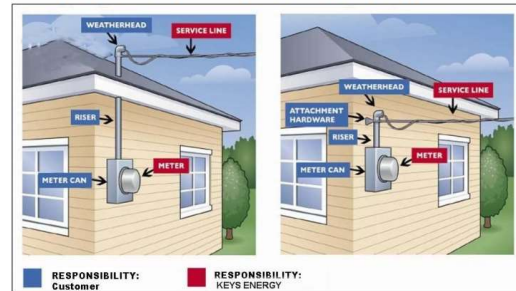
Our linemen continue to battle difficult conditions while helping restore power to residents of New Smyrna Beach Utilities. Prayers for all those affected by the storm and those responding with aid. #safetysays #publicpower #mutualaid #flpublicpower #HurricaneMilton

Lessons Learned: Communication is Vital



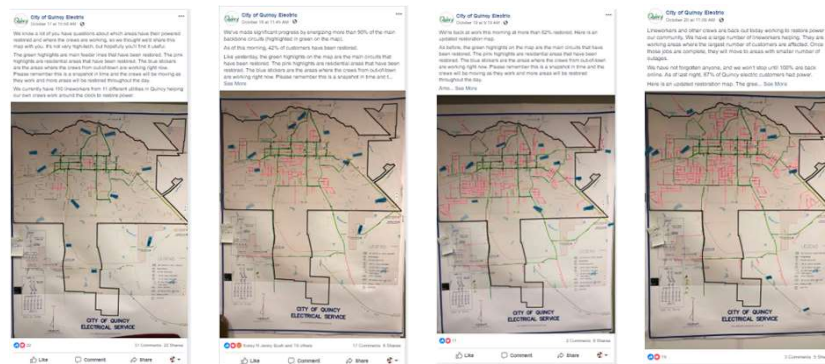
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METER CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES



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Lessons Learned: Communication is Vital



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FEMA: Blessing and Curse

- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Invoice – itemized receipts (hotel receipts; P-card receipts)
 - Food receipts during travel
 - Food receipts on site – if food is not provided by requesting utility. If food is provided, food receipts may not be reimbursable unless extenuating circumstance (documented)
- Crew Roster: Including who drives/operates each vehicle daily
- Labor Summary: Date worked> Rate of pay> Mutual aid rate> Employee name and Title> Overtime rate> Regular rate> Hours worked> Total
- Pay policy from MA provider
- Vehicle Summary: Equipment Name>Equipment ID#>Employee name>Vehicle Code>Vehicle rate>Days worked>Total hours> Total cost
- Time Sheets + Proof of Payment
- Fringe Benefit Calculation



Thank You!

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on LinkedIn

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FLPublicPower.com

