



Forsyth County Cooperative Extension News

September 8, 2017

Hello, Neighbors! Current projections indicate that storm effects from Hurricane Irma are most likely to reach North Georgia Monday evening, but could arrive as early as Monday morning. These effects include wind gusts, downed trees, and power outages. With 3-5 inches of rain expected between Monday and Wednesday, we may also see some flooding. Tornadoes are another possibility in areas east of the Interstate-75 corridor.

Preparation ahead of emergencies can reduce damage and make recovery easier.

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT – Use foods from the refrigerator first, then frozen foods, then canned foods. If you rely on electricity for cooking, you may want to pre-cook some foods so that they are ready to eat. The high winds and rain may make it difficult to cook outside on your grill. Don't bring your grill indoors for cooking; this can cause deadly carbon monoxide to build up in your home.

I heard reports that several stores are already out of bottled water. Go ahead and fill up some containers with water for drinking. Freeze some to help keep frozen foods frozen if the power goes out. Fill your bathtub with water for washing and toilet flushing.

PRACTICE SAFETY CLEARING DOWNED TREES – Falling trees can bring down power lines. Before attempting to move or cut downed trees, inspect the site and surrounding area for hazards on the ground and above. Always assume that any power lines are live and contact [Sawnee EMC](#) or [Georgia Power](#). When using a chainsaw, protect yourself and others by wearing all appropriate personal protection equipment and following [saw safety practices](#). Uprooted trees may “stand up” when the weight of upper portions are cut off. Make sure the area is clear of helpers and observers during cutting.

STORE OR SECURE OUTDOOR ITEMS – While we're currently not anticipating sustained winds, we may experience bands of wind gusts in the 40-45 mph range on Monday, with stronger gusts expected on Tuesday. Strong winds can move or make airborne patio furnishings and garden items, which can cause injury or property damage.

FOR MORE RESOURCES – visit <http://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/timely-topics/emergencies.html>

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