



Forsyth County Cooperative Extension News Alert

September 13, 2018

Hello, Neighbors! Current projections indicate that wind effects from Hurricane Florence may reach Georgia as early as tonight. Winds are expected to increase through the weekend, producing tropical storm force winds at or above 39 miles per hour. These effects include wind gusts, downed trees, and power outages. The National Weather Service also predicts that parts of the state will see heavy rainfall between Sunday and Monday that may produce flooding.

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

STORE OR SECURE OUTDOOR ITEMS – Strong winds can move or make airborne patio furnishings and garden items, which can cause injury or property damage.

FILL WATER CONTAINERS – Before the storm arrives, fill 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.

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.

PRACTICE SAFETY CLEARING DOWNED TREES – Falling trees can bring down power lines. Before attempting to move or cut felled 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.

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