

PPL Electric Utilities is ready for predicted busy hurricane season

Forecasts by NOAA, The Weather Channel® project active six months in the Atlantic

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (May 22, 2020) -- Weather scientists are predicting a more active than average hurricane season this year and PPL Electric Utilities' grid and workforce will be ready if any of those storms affect central and eastern Pennsylvania.

Homeowners and businesses should be ready as well and PPL's advice is to always be prepared for severe weather, plan ahead, and know your storm safety.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Thursday (5/21) predicted the likelihood of 13-19 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes and 3-6 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher) this season, which officially runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. Active weather already started with Tropical Storm Arthur forming off the southeastern U.S. coast earlier this week. The Weather Channel in April predicted 18 named storms, nine hurricanes and four major hurricanes.

"The approaching warmer weather not only ushers in hurricane season, it's also prime time for thunderstorms and other severe weather. As PPL continues to invest in a stronger, safer and more resilient grid, the impacts of these storms have substantially decreased," said PPL Electric Utilities President Greg Dudkin.

From 2011 to 2019, PPL was able to reduce the annual number of customer interruptions by 30 percent. That meant about 363,000 fewer customer interruptions in 2019, and 53 million minutes saved. Over the past several years, PPL has ranked among the national leaders for reliability performance. Since 2010, it has reduced overall outage frequency on its grid by nearly a third.

Helping drive down outages is PPL's extensive use of smart grid technology, which reduces the size of the area affected by an outage by instantly rerouting power around trouble spots. In addition, gains have been spurred by replacing aging equipment with stronger, more storm-resistant poles and wires, comprehensive tree trimming and clearing, improved lightning protection, expanded use of animal guards, and more.

Strong storms like hurricanes will still produce some power outages, but no matter the circumstances, PPL is prepared to work around the clock to get the lights back on. "The pandemic may have us working differently, but no less effectively. Our customers can be confident we're there for them," Dudkin said.

Severe weather can bring trees down on poles and wires. Remember to always stay far away from any downed wire and always assume it's live and carries electricity. If you own a portable generator, be sure to use it safely. For more safety information, visit ppllectric.com/safety.

For more on what PPL is doing to keep the grid reliable, visit ppllectric.com/reliability.

PPL Electric Utilities provides electric delivery service to more than 1.4 million homes and businesses in Pennsylvania and ranks among the best utility companies in the country for customer service and reliability. PPL Electric Utilities is a major employer in the communities it serves. It is a subsidiary of PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL). For more information visit www.ppllectric.com.

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