Storm Electrical Safety Checklist

Has anyone ever lost electricity when it was stormy out? This is called a blackout and it happens when wind or fallen trees disrupt power lines and electrical facilities. When this happens people light candles and play board games to pass the time. Do you know what things in your house are not powered by electricity?

This is a safety checklist to make sure your family and home are prepared and protected during these storms.

❑ Did you make sure electrical equipment is unplugged?

❑ Do you have a go-bag in case of emergency? This should be stocked with non-perishable foods, batteries, wind up radio, first aid kit and water at the least

❑ Are all the doors and windows shut and locked?

❑ Did you check the outside of your house for loose wires or low hanging-weak trees that can fall and cause damage?

❑ Is your outside property (barbeques, patio furniture, etc.) tied down from heavy wind?

❑ Are your outdoor outlets covered and protected from wind and water?

❑ If you lose power does your family need a generator to sustain important electrical equipment?

❑ If you have a basement did you make sure valuables are moved to a higher level in case of flood?

❑ If the storm is serious does your family have a plan for temporary relocation?

Don't forget about the pets!

❑ Plan to take your pets with you in an evacuation. If it is not safe for you to stay, it is not safe for them either

❑ Know which hotels and motels along your evacuation route will accept you and your pets in an emergency. Call ahead for reservations if you know you may need to evacuate. Ask if no-pet policies could be waived in an emergency

❑ Include your pets in evacuation drills so that they become used to entering and traveling in their carriers calmly

❑ Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up to-date identification. Many pet shelters require proof of current vaccinations to reduce the spread of disease

Pets Need a go –bag too! Your kit should include—

❑ Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that they can't escape

❑ Food, drinking water, bowls, cat litter/pan and a manual can opener

❑ Medications and copies of medical records stored in a waterproof container

❑ Current photos of you with your pet(s) in case they get lost. Since many pets look alike, this will help to eliminate mistaken identity and confusion

❑ Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets

Emergency Contacts for Suffolk County

■ Report a Downed Wire or Other Electrical Emergency
Call LIPA at 800-490-0075 or 631-755-6900 immediately, anytime

■ Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management 631-852-4900

■ Red Cross (24 hour) 1-877-733-2767
http://www.redcross.org/ny/mineola/about-us/contact-us

■ Sign Up to receive Emergency Notifications from the Suffolk County CodeRED Emergency Notification System https://cne.coderedweb.com/error.aspx?ErrorText=Access%20to%20this%20feature%20 is%20Expired!&GroupID=

■ Suffolk County Emergency Preparedness Registry click here
https://oemapps.suffolkcountyny.gov/spns/