

Storms & Hurricanes

PREPARING FOR THE EVENT

Prior to any rainy season (June – December) you should report to T&TEC any trees that are growing very close to power lines. T&TEC will advise as to safe clearance or will remove these trees from power lines safely.

Fallen or low sagging power lines are dangerous and can result in persons becoming seriously injured or killed. It is therefore imperative that these dangerous situations are left alone and T&TEC is contacted for immediate and effective attention.

Remember, before the onset of the hurricane season you should take the following actions:

- Secure in one place a disaster kit comprising batteries, a portable radio, flashlights, matches, clothes, water, non-perishable food items, sanitation supplies, medication and a first aid kit.
- Place valuables and important papers in water-proof containers or plastic bags.
- Ensure you have adequate baby supplies, prescription and other medicines.
- Safely remove all electrical apparatus from locations where they can get wet.
- Secure roofs.
- Review family evacuation plans and know where your emergency shelter is located.
- Remove unused building material and tools from around the house.

In the event that a storm watch is announced:

- Monitor your TV and/or radio for emergency announcements.
- Secure your windows and doors.
- Know where your electrical panel is. In the event that your electric system becomes wet, it would be safest if you turn the breaker off.
- Secure your home, pets and livestock.

During a Storm/Hurricane

- Stay within the safe confines of your home and away from windows.
- Do not venture outside, as there may be fallen power lines that may be energised.
- Listen to the radio for national emergency updates.
- Do not use electrically powered appliances during the storm as lightning can cause them to malfunction and even cause injury.
- It may be necessary to open your electrical panel box and switch off your main breaker, as a precaution.

After a Storm/Hurricane

- Check family members to ensure their well-being.
- Seek medical attention if seriously injured.
- Do not touch electrical appliances, wires or equipment especially if they are wet.
- Do not turn on any electrical equipment (even the main power source in your house) until you are sure the wiring is safe. You may need an electrician to check your house.
- Do not venture outside until you visually inspect your yard for any fallen power lines.
- Call T&TEC immediately to report sparking and/or fallen power lines, poles and structures.
- Stay away from trees touching power lines.
- Do not go sightseeing; you may put yourself at risk of becoming injured.
- Standing water may be electrically charged from power lines. Check for damages to electrical lines and appliances.
- Use a flash light to inspect for damage. Candles and other flames can cause fires and injuries.
- Keep your distance from fallen power lines. Fallen power lines and/or low, sagging power lines can be dangerous even if they are not sparking.

- Do not venture around electrical equipment or appliances. Wet or moist environments are especially dangerous if electric systems are faulted.
- Monitor the radio or television for constant updates.
- Do not use food contaminated by flood waters. Boil all drinking water unless you are told it is safe.

Main types of electrical injuries:

- Electrocution (fatal)
- Electric Shock
- Burns
- Falls as a result of contact with electrical energy

In cases of electrical injuries call the EHS at 811 or the Fire Service at 990.



Electrical Safety Tips – you need to know

- Refrain from using appliances or extension cords in wet environments; appliances/equipment with the ground prong (pin) removed from the cord; and extension cords with frayed insulations.
- Do not plant trees where they can grow unto power lines. People have been known to die as a result of picking fruits from trees located near to or touching energised power lines. Trimming such trees have resulted in serious injuries and fatal accidents, burst conductors and power outages.
- Exercise extreme caution when conducting building repairs or extensions that may require you to come within 3 metres of a power line. Contact the T&TEC office in your area for advice, if necessary.
- Be very cautious when driving/maneuvering tall vehicles or moving very large loads under or close to power lines. The legal height of vehicles should not exceed 15 feet or 4.5 metres.
- Follow manufacturers guidelines when using any electrical appliance, equipment or machinery. Failure to use these properly may result in serious or fatal injuries.

CALL T&TEC at:

HEAD OFFICE	623-2611 623-6274 623-6291
NORTHERN AREA OFFICE	623-5070 625-7531
EASTERN AREA OFFICE	643-2538 643-2510 643-2433
CENTRAL AREA OFFICE	636-8107 636-4871
SOUTHERN AREA OFFICE	657-7281 652-0817
POINT FORTIN AREA OFFICE	648-2791 648-2903
RIO CLARO AREA OFFICE	644-2475 644-2262
TOBAGO OFFICE	639-2541 639-2015
T&TEC HOTLINE NUMBER	800- TTEC (8832)
STREET LIGHTING DEPARTMENT	800-BULB (2852)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

POLICE	999/911 (Tobago) 639-1200
FIRE/AMBULANCE	990 (Tobago) 639-1000
EHS/EMS	811 653-4343 624-4343 (Tobago) 639-4444
COAST GUARDS	634-4440 634-4439
ODPM	640-1285 640-8905 640-8653 640-6493 800 ODPM(6376)
TEMA	(Tobago) 660-7489
CERT	(Speyside, Tobago) 660-6096
CALL CENTRE	(Tobago) 211