

KIUC Urges Members to Prepare for Weather Impacts

Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 02/14/2019 – KIUC urges members to be prepared for additional impacts as high winds are expected to continue through tomorrow morning.

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by having a portable battery-powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries available. Protect your appliances and sensitive equipment from power outages and surges that may occur because of bad weather by using surge protectors. During a storm turn off and unplug all unnecessary appliances or equipment. When the power comes back on and is steady, gradually plug in your appliances.

If evacuation is necessary, it is recommended that you turn off the main breaker before leaving home. Locate the main breaker at the meter box outside of your home. Your main breaker is usually located under an easily opened metal cover of your electric meter box. Turn the switch to the “OFF” position.

During a high wind event power outages are likely to occur and may be prolonged. “Our outage management system allows us to identify and track outages in real time,” said KIUC’s Chief of Operations, Mike Yamane, adding that members can track outages in real-time on the KIUC website: www.kiuc.coop by visiting the outage map. Outage information is also available on KIUC’s Facebook page, which is also visible on the bottom of the website home page. If you don’t have access to these resources or you are experiencing something unusual, call 246.4300 for assistance.

During high wind events, objects coming in contact with overhead lines and electrical equipment can cause power interruptions. Storm intensity will dictate how KIUC responds to outages. Repair crews will respond if it is safe to do so, however, during severe conditions immediate response may not be possible. Extended outages should be expected.

Sometimes during high winds power lines are knocked down. If you see any lines from utility poles on the ground, assume that they are dangerous. Do not touch them and if someone is touching a line, don’t try to rescue them and risk becoming a victim; get help immediately by calling 911.

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Depending on the extent of damage sustained during the storm, outages could last days or longer. “Restoring power safely is always our top priority,” stated Yamane. He added that before commencing repairs, crews must make sure that any potential safety hazards are eliminated or mitigated.

The public can help the cooperative’s restoration effort by not cutting or tampering with utility equipment such as poles and lines that may have been downed during the storm. “We understand the need to create clear paths for vehicles as soon as possible after the storm,” said Yamane. “However, power restoration could be delayed if our equipment needs to be replaced due to post-storm damage.”

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