# COASTAL READINESS GUIDE

FLORIDA HURRICANE & POWER OUTAGE PREPAREDNESS

Whittaker Electric, Inc.

## 1. Electrical System Pre-Check

Don't wait for the storm to build. Ensure your home's electrical "heart" is ready for the stress of a Florida hurricane.

• **Inspect Your Panel:** Look for signs of corrosion or moisture. Salt air accelerates wear on electrical components.

• **Test GFCIs:** Press the 'test' button on all outdoor and garage outlets. High winds can drive rain into unexpected places.

• **Surge Protection:** Consider a Whole-Home Surge Protector to safeguard expensive appliances from grid spikes during power restoration.

## 2. Generator Safety & Setup

• **DANGER:** NEVER run a generator inside a home, garage, or near open windows. Carbon monoxide is odorless and deadly.

• **Fuel Storage:** Store gasoline in an airtight container in a cool, ventilated space—never inside the house.

• **Extension Cords:** Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords. Check for frays or damage before the storm hits.

**Professional Tip:** Ask about a **Generator Interlock Kit**. It is the safest, most affordable way to power your home's existing circuits without messy extension cords.

## 3. During & After the Outage

• **Unplug Sensitive Electronics:** Computers, TVs, and microwaves should be unplugged to avoid damage from initial power surges.

• **Beware of Downed Lines:** Always assume a downed power line is energized. Stay at least 30 feet away and report it immediately.

• **Check for Water Intrusion:** If your outlets or panel got wet during the storm, do **not** turn the power back on. Have a professional audit the system first.

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