

# Be Ready for Storm Season this Spring

Spring and summer can create the perfect conditions for severe storms. Hancock-Wood's crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. We encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials like diapers and toiletries.
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.
- In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. Do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.
- If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.
- Listen to local news or a NOAA weather radio for storm and emergency information, and check Hancock-Wood's Facebook page for restoration updates.

# Project Ohio Brings Electricity to Remote Village

On Friday, January 24, 15 volunteer lineworkers from 10 Ohio electric cooperatives returned home from an electrification mission in Guatemala. During the 17-day trip, the Project Ohio team successfully brought electricity to 93 homes in the remote village of Barejones, in the Jalapa region of Guatemala. Clint Patterson, a Hancock-Wood lineman was one of the volunteers who participated.

The team was able to install primary and secondary conductors, set meter poles, pole mounted lights, and perform in-home electrical work. The team also continued previous work done by Oklahoma Electric Cooperatives in establishing a distribution system to the village.

