

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

**GENERAC®**



**PLANNING BEGINS WITH YOU**

GENERAC.COM

# Hurricane Preparedness Begins With You

Remember your last hurricane season experience? Perhaps you were waiting out the season, hoping for the best weather to prevail. Perhaps you were in the thick of the storm, bracing your home and family for the worst. Perhaps you were part of the disaster recovery team making your way to a storm surge site. Whatever your experience, you have a significant story to detail it.

Yet, when the next rumblings of a hurricane buzz through the news, a new commotion comes with it. Though hurricanes are one of the most severe and dangerous natural disasters out there, time is on your side. With a little pre-planning, you can weather any storm.

Generac's 2016 Hurricane Preparedness Guide gives you relevant guidance to approaching future storms. From a leader in backup power, Generac offers you this guide as a practical reference point to emergency preparedness. Gain knowledge in planning for all scenarios that arise with the hurricane season, and make the right decisions when the potential threat of a storm becomes a reality.

**Being prepared starts with you – and it starts now!**

## 2016 Hurricane Predictions

According to the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, the current El Niño is dissipating and forecasts favor a 70% likelihood that La Niña – which favors hurricane activity – will peak in August through October. Of the 10 to 16 names storms this year, the NOAA predicts 4 to 8 of these storms could become a hurricane.

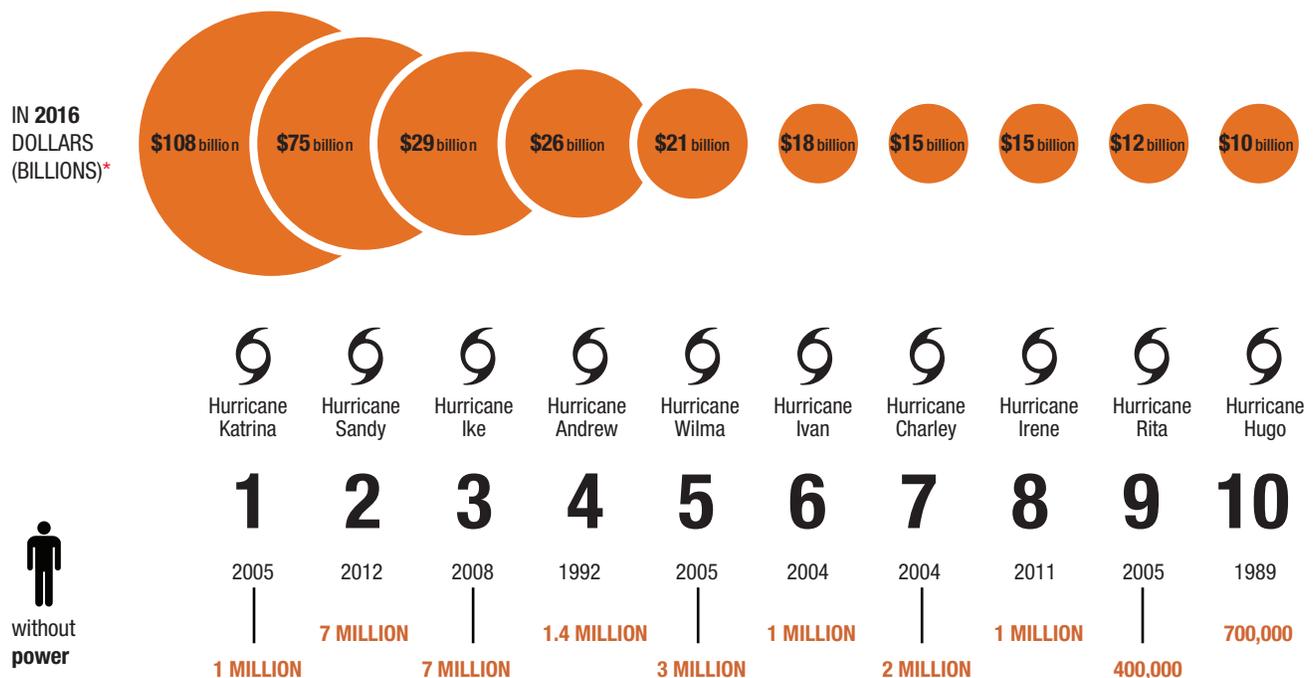
*“While seasonal forecasts may vary from year to year – some high, some low – it only takes one storm to significantly disrupt your life,” said FEMA Deputy Administrator Joseph Nimmich. “Preparing for the worst can keep you, your family, and first responders out of harm’s way.”*

Take steps to prepare today!

## THE TEN MOST COSTLY *HURRICANES*

U.S. region

\* data from Wikipedia and National Weather Service



# “Should I Stay, or Should I Go?”

...is the common question that comes to mind when an official hurricane has been reported. The best course of action is to make an informed decision and understanding when to be flexible. Knowing when the rules should be followed and how to manage the time you are given before a hurricane strikes can be a lifesaving decision.

## If You Plan To Stay

### Create A Disaster Recovery Plan

Sometimes you have to plan for more than yourself. Develop a communication and logistics plan that includes pets and loved ones. In the event of severe weather, you can easily coordinate secure meeting points, identify safe rooms in your home, and organize an alternative, temporary residence.

### Prepare Your ‘To Do’ List

Plan now for later. In the thick of chaos, it is hard to remember everything that needs to get done. Create your checklist in advance, and keep it handy. Refer to Generac's Safety List (page 13) to get started.

### Survival Packs

Remember access to food, running water and power will be limited-to-none after a hurricane. Think through the impact this will have on you and your family, and stock up on the essentials.

### Emergency News

In case the power goes out, plan the resources you will need ahead of time to get your emergency news updates. Keep an emergency contact list and have a battery operated radio on hand. Know best escape routes in your area and prepare a contact list of neighbors with medical training. It may come in handy.

### Don't Wait

If an evacuation order has been issued, don't wait until it's too late. Always be open to the fact you might have to leave. Know where the nearest safety shelter is located, and give yourself time to travel (24 to 36 hours). Be off the highway when the storm strikes.

## If You Plan To Go

### Plan To Go If

- You live in a manufactured or mobile home
- Your home was built prior to current hurricane building standards
- Your home is vulnerable to a storm surge or flooding
- An evacuation has been issued

### Identify Shelter

Pre-arrange a safe place to stay – a family, friend, or Red Cross location. Have a list of emergency contacts, and tell immediate family members where you plan to be.

### Prepare Your ‘To Do’ List

Equip your home before leaving – turn off electricity; brace entry points; lock windows and doors. Make sure you have important paperwork gathered in one easy-to-grab spot. Refill medications (one month supply on hand) and pack pets and family members for travel.

### Don't Wait

Allow yourself 24 to 36 hours of evacuation time before the storm hits landfall or an evacuation order has been issued. Expect congestion on roadways and stay off the road when the storm hits.



### Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch

A **watch** is issued 48 hours before the possibility of anticipated tropic-storm-force winds.

### Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning

A **warning** is issued 26 hours before the expected onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

# PLAN FOR PETS

## GET ASPCA rescue alert sticker



Place sticker on or near your front door. **Free stickers** available at ASPCA.org.

## Travel Plan Secured

- Pet kennel or carrier w/familiar bedding
- Keep identification on pet at all times

## List of places to stay

- Identify a friend's home, local shelter, or pet-friendly hotel
- Stay calm. You're prepared!

## Pack *Grab N' Go* bag



*Make sure pets have had shots within past 12 months*

## Power Outages Do Happen

Power lines and major utilities are extremely vulnerable to severe storms and heavy wind damage. In fact, every year severe weather increases the risk of leaving up to millions of people without power for extended lengths of time. Some of the worst storms have eliminated access to power for weeks.

Outages are widespread, inconvenient and can yield a costly impact on your home. Imagine the appliances that construct the backbone of your home: furnace, air conditioning, water pumps, water heater, refrigerator, oven – all unavailable for use. It is uncertain for how long, but what is certain is you will fend for extended periods of time without access to these conveniences. Are you prepared?

### Did you know?

- 50% of power loss in America is due to strong storms
- The average cost of a single power outage occurrence to a homeowner is \$1,058 per home
- In 2015, there were 137,355,050 recorded hours of power loss in the US

Generac knows power. Generac's robust product line provides durable solutions to procuring power when the utilities cannot. In fact, Generac's products often support major utility power locations, data centers and even cell towers during storm power outages.



With so many businesses and households trusting in Generac's expertise, rest easy knowing you can, too!

# In The Thick Of A Storm

So, you've decided to stay and ride out the storm. Your home is prepared to brace the unexpected. Your loved ones are safe and ready to hunker down. The heavy rains are pouring and fierce winds are tearing through your neighborhood. Then the power goes out. How do you plan to make the best of what could be a strenuous situation?

## Anticipating No Power

There is something primitive to living through a power outage. No power means slowing life down by living in candlelight, self-entertaining, and having no access to modern conveniences like air conditioning, television or internet. Here are tips on withstanding life without power.

### Preparedness Tip #1: Conservation

It's hot and muggy. There is no power or air conditioning. Yet the refrigerator and freezer are full of food that you don't want to spoil. What do you do?

#### Keep It Closed.

A refrigerator will stay cold for up to 4 hours without power; a freezer will last up to 48 hours. Keep the door closed, and let the unit insulate itself.

#### Keep It Cool.

Consider putting dry ice or a block of ice within a refrigerator or freezer to extend the cold. Put only essentials into an accessible cooler with ice and use before the ice melts.

#### Keep It Simple

Meals should be kept simple. Keep in mind that cooking by candlelight will be a necessity. Plan some easy-to-make meals ahead of time and make sure you have the tools to prepare them.

### Recipe #1: No Power Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwich



**Tools:** Butter knife

#### Ingredients

½ cup creamy peanut butter

2 slices of bread

¼ cup honey

2 small bananas, sliced

¼ cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips, if desired

Pinch of cinnamon

#### Directions

Spread 2 tablespoons of peanut butter evenly over each bread slice. Drizzle honey over top of peanut butter. Top with banana slices and add a pinch of cinnamon. Add chocolate chips, if desired. Eat and enjoy!

**Preparedness Tip #2:  
Plan  
Entertainment**

Having no power means having more downtime. Staying occupied will keep everyone calm. Though your family may feel exasperated, you will have the answers:

- Read a new book
- Make your own word games
- Brush up on your card game skills
- Take up a new craft
- Go basement camping
- Start a new workout plan

## Word Challenge

---

Day of the Week \_\_\_\_\_

State or Town \_\_\_\_\_

Verb-ing \_\_\_\_\_

Noun \_\_\_\_\_

Adjective \_\_\_\_\_

A Phrase \_\_\_\_\_

Body Part \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exclamation \_\_\_\_\_

(Go to page 8)

**Preparedness Tip #3:  
Communication**

We all want to communicate with our loved ones during an emergency. But what happens when power is down and battery life is limited? Remember to ration your resources.

### Unplug.

Remember to unplug cell phones and electronics prior to the power going out. It could save you a headache of repairs on devices affected by electrical surges.

### Power Down.

Limit phone usage to calls only. Turn off WiFi or set phone to airplane mode to extend usage. Power down your phone to maximize battery life.

### Emergencies Only.

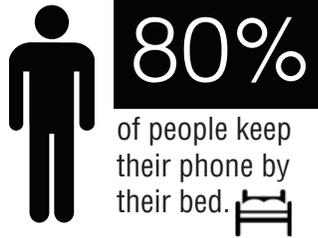
Make calls only in emergencies and avoid tying up phone lines for emergency responders.

# CELL PHONE USAGE **FACTS**

Average\*  
Phone Life



\* Based on best battery life devices

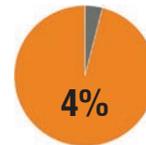


85 TIMES

# of times average person  
checks phone per day.

Top **6** Activities on mobile phone

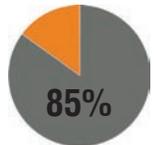
1. Send/recieve messages
2. Search for information
3. Use navigation or map
4. Update social networking site
5. Stream music
6. Play online games



carry an  
external  
battery



carry a  
charger



carry no  
battery  
backup

## Luxuries of Portable Power

When the novelty of living life without power wears off, some find it is time to consider a portable power source. Portable generators can provide power to appliances, allowing you to power the essentials.

Portable generators range in size and variety. However, the right portable generator can be used to power critical devices like your refrigerator, freezer, well pump or microwave.

Portable generators are easily stored and maintenance is minimal. In fact, this versatile investment fulfills year-round needs like home improvement projects, yet is highly impactful during a power outage lasting more than a couple of hours. Portable generators are a reliable option to power what you need, when you need it.



## Preparedness Tip #4: Safety

Know these safety tips before using your portable generators.

- Run all portable generators outside.
- Keep portables away from open windows and open garages.
- Keep a carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have extra gas on hand and store in well ventilated area.

### Bonus Tip

A portable generator with a 7 1/2 gallon gas tank can provide backup power for about 9-11 hours when running at 50% load. Product wattage will vary by model.



## Word Challenge Continued >>

It was a stormy \_\_\_\_\_ night in \_\_\_\_\_ and the wind  
[Day of the Week] [State or Town]

was \_\_\_\_\_ so loud you could hear it in every room of the house. I grabbed  
[Verb-ing]

my \_\_\_\_\_ and held it close. Then I heard a \_\_\_\_\_ thunder crack!  
[Noun] [Adjective]

I jumped up and yelled \_\_\_\_\_! Just then the power went out. It was so dark I couldn't see my  
[A Phrase]

\_\_\_\_\_ in front of my face. But I knew all I had to do was wait \_\_\_\_\_ seconds  
[Body Part] [Number]

and, sure enough, our Generac generator started up. We had power again. \_\_\_\_\_ for our  
[Exclamation]

Generac generator!

## Preparedness Tip #5: How Much To Power

When running a portable generator, you can power multiple items at the same time based on unit size and wattage. Consider the ability to keep your refrigerator running while making coffee and powering a reading lamp.



Visit Generac's portable generator calculator to see what you can power:  
[www.generac.com/portable-sizer](http://www.generac.com/portable-sizer)

## Preparedness Tip #6: Meal Options

A perk to having a portable generator is the ability to temporarily power your microwave or crockpot for heating meals. Have a recipe on hand that affords you the option of cooking with portable generator power.

### Recipe #2: Portable Power Chicken and Black Bean Quesadillas



**Tools:** Griddle, Can Opener and Knife

#### Ingredients

2 boneless chicken breasts  
1 can of black beans (drained)  
1 can of corn (drained)  
1 small onion  
2 cups of cheese  
2 large (10 – 12 inch) tortillas  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
¼ teaspoon of paprika, optional  
Sour cream or guacamole for dipping

**Directions** Clean chicken breast and cut to cubes. Sprinkle with paprika. Heat on griddle medium to high heat until fully cooked – set to side. Mix black beans, corn, and onions – add to chicken. Turn down griddle heat to medium. Take one tortilla and add oil to one side. Lay oil side down onto griddle. Top with cheese and chicken/bean mix. Take second tortilla and add to top. Top with drizzle of oil. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side until quesadillas are lightly browned and the cheese has melted. Slice and serve!

## The Comfort of Automatic Home Standby Power

As you are looking out the window, watching the storm pick up pace, it happens. The lights go out and the neighborhood goes dark. For a moment, you are alarmed knowing it could be hours, if not days, before utility crews restore power. Luckily, seconds later, your lights come back on. Your power has been fully restored thanks to your trusted Generac automatic home standby generator. You take a sip of coffee and return to your computer knowing you are protected and that life can go on without interruption.

An automatic home standby generator can protect your home from damage caused by power outages. When utility power is lost, a home standby generator will automatically turn on, restoring power to your entire home. When utility power is restored, the generator automatically turns off. It is that easy! Plus, there is no need to worry about refueling a home standby generator, as generators run off of your existing natural gas or LP fuel supply.

With an automatic home standby generator, know your home's critical appliances – air conditioner, furnace, sump pump, well pump, water heater – are operating. Rest assured knowing food in the refrigerator is cold, the lights are on, your internet and cell phones are accessible, and your home security system is fully functional – all at the same time!

Best of all, a home standby generator can increase the value of your home. Whether you are home or away, an automatic home standby generator provides the comfort and convenience of backup power when you need it most!



## Preparedness Tip #7: Maintenance

If you have already invested in a home standby unit, performing required maintenance is key to ensuring your generator will operate as intended during a power outage. Consult your certified Generac dealer for an exercise test and make sure your generator is in top shape for the season.

## ✓ Maintenance



## Preparedness Tip #8: Start a Playlist

Now that you're fully powered, you can turn on your favorite music and listen to some great tunes. Start a playlist and add some of Generac's 2016 Storm Jams!



## Generac's 2016 Storm Jams Playlist

Prepared for you by employees of Generac, here are this year's top song suggestions for every storm jams playlist!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 10 – “Trying To Reason With Hurricane Season” – Jimmy Buffet | 5 – “Riders On The Storm” – Doors           |
| 9 – “I’ve Got The Power” – Snap                              | 4 – “Thunderstruck” – AC/DC                 |
| 8 – “Who Will Stop the Rain” – CCR                           | 3 – “Umbrella” – Rhianna                    |
| 7 – “Here Comes The Rain” – Eurhythemics                     | 2 – “Purple Rain” – Prince                  |
| 6 – “Thunder Rolls” – Garth Brooks                           | 1 – “Rock You Like A Hurricane” – Scorpions |

## Preparedness Tip #9: Invite The Neighbors

Having access to every day conveniences give you advantages. Invite the neighbors over for a home-cooked meal. They will appreciate your gesture and the comfort of air conditioning (or heat) even more.

### Recipe #3: Full Power Baked Ziti w/ Salad and Garlic Bread



\* 1/2 recipe for small family portion

**Tools:** Boiling pot, 2 - 13x9” pans, frying pan, pasta strainer and oven

#### Ingredients

- 2 lbs of ziti noodles (or Penne)
- 2 – 24 oz jars of marinara sauce
- 3 lbs ground beef
- 4 cups mozzarella cheese
- 3 teaspoons oregano
- Dash salt and pepper

**Directions** Brown ground beef in pan until thoroughly cooked. Drain juices. Cook pasta until it's al-dente. Combine pasta, meat, marinara sauce, oregano, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well. In 13 x 9” pans, lay pasta, mix and top with mozzarella cheese. Bake ° at 350 for 30 to 45 minutes. Add a side salad and garlic bread to complete meal. Invite the neighbors and indulge!

**Preparedness Tip #10:**  
**Consult  
An Expert**

If you are considering an automatic home standby generator, it is best to consult an expert. Generac has a team of authorized dealers waiting to help you make the best choice for your home and family.

## Post Storm Clean-Up

When the storm subsides, you may find your neighborhood in disrepair and isolated from surrounding communities. Protect your neighborhood by planning ahead!

### How You Can Help

- **Identify and check-in on elderly and special needs neighbors**  
Make sure these neighbors are safe and have an advocate during the storm. If no relatives are available, reach out to Red Cross or emergency care facilities.
- **Seek out Red Cross volunteer positions**  
Often times, when the storm hits, it is too late to get involved. Reach out now and train before disaster strikes. Anyone can be a volunteer.
- **Create a disaster preparedness plan for the neighborhood**  
Having a plan prepared in advance can be a major asset. Jointly develop how your community will pull together and assign people tasks for post-storm efforts.



### Cleanup Crew Committee

Cleaning up after a storm can be a huge undertaking. Be sure to pool resources to divide and conquer. Here are a few tips to consider when developing your cleanup crew committee:

- ✓ Assign a coordinator
- ✓ Recruit clean-up crew members
- ✓ Select a post-storm meeting location
- ✓ Survey clean-up site
  - Know when it is safe to start clean-up efforts
  - Avoid downed power lines and highly flooded areas
- ✓ Gain access to tools and supplies
  - Identify neighbors with flood dewatering pumps, pressure washers, shop vacuums & chain saws
  - Know how to properly dispose of debris
  - Have a stash of garbage bags, bleach, gloves and other cleaning supplies on hand
- ✓ Organize trash removal



Thank clean-up crews with a warm meal or hand-written note. A little goes a long way!

# Hurricane Safety Checklist

*Be Prepared Before, and Ready After*

It's that time of year again – hurricane season.

Colorado State University climatologists Philip Klotzbach and Bill Gray, pioneers in the science of forecasting hurricanes and two of the world's leading experts on tropical storms, are predicting three hurricanes, one major, and seven named storms this season. And when high winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding meet our outdated electric power infrastructure, the result is often widespread power outages.

The time to prepare is before severe weather hits. Backup power is one way to be ready for storms, but there are many steps you can take to protect yourself and your family when the weather turns particularly nasty.

**BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT.** A basic emergency kit will help you keep your family safe and healthy in the event of a disaster. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends having at least two-weeks' worth of the following supplies:

- Water, one gallon per person for both drinking and sanitation
- Food, non-perishables (refer to Generac's Hurricane Preparation Shopping List) and a manual can opener for food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, and an NOAA weather radio, with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Moist towelettes, and garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle, to signal for help
- Wrench and pliers to turn off utilities
- Cell phone and portable charger



**STAY IN TOUCH.** Download an application to your smartphone that can notify people where you are, and whether or not you are safe. The Red Cross has a Hurricane App available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

**GET GAS.** You may need to evacuate in the event of a hurricane, or run a portable generator. Fill up your car or gas tank before the storm hits to avoid long lines.

**KNOW YOUR EVACUATION PLAN.** Each community has an evacuation plan. It's important to know the route to safely evacuate the area in the event of an emergency. Having an alternate route can also be beneficial.

**LOCATE THE NEAREST SHELTER.** Learn the location of the nearest shelter. If you have pets, make sure to identify pet-friendly shelters.

**AX IN THE ATTIC.** If flooding occurs, you may need to move to the rooftop. With an ax, you will be able to break through and climb on top of the roof, where rescuers can reach you and your family to take you to safety.

**PREPARE YOUR HOME.** Use hurricane shutters, or board up windows and doors with 5/8 inch plywood, and reinforce garage doors. Bring in outside items if they can be picked up by high winds, and clear gutters of debris.

**HAVE BACKUP POWER AVAILABLE.** If you already own a portable or automatic backup generator, complete the necessary maintenance to make sure the generator can function properly. If you don't own a generator, consider purchasing one. **Click here** to read more about backup power options.

For more hurricane preparedness tips, visit <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>



[www.generac.com/survival-guide-ihc](http://www.generac.com/survival-guide-ihc)

When you invest in an automatic home standby generator, you'll get piece of mind knowing a power outage may no longer impact your life.

**Schedule your FREE  
in-home assessment today!**

**Call 855-703-7547**

**Special Offer**

*7-Year Extended Parts & Labor Limited Warranty\**

**\$695 Value**

\* Instead of our standard 5-year warranty, you'll receive our 5-year extended parts and labor limited warranty – a \$695 value FREE.

## Why Choose Generac?

Founded in 1959, Generac remains the #1 selling brand of home standby generators in the industry. In fact, today our generators are preferred by 7 out of every 10 homeowners who invest in automatic standby power. Our product lines are also supported by a 5,000-plus nationwide dealer network that provides sales assistance, installation, service and parts.

If you're ready to invest in home backup power, start by scheduling a free in-home assessment with an authorized dealer. Visit [www.generac.com/survival-guide-ihc](http://www.generac.com/survival-guide-ihc) to schedule your appointment. At that time, the installer will visit your home to review your system requirements, provide equipment advice and help you navigate the installation process. You'll also get a written estimate for the generator and the cost to install.



The in-home assessment is completely free and you have no obligation to buy. It's all part of our commitment to deliver real value to you, our customer, so you have peace-of-mind not just after your home backup power system is installed, but through every step of the process.

## THE GENERAC PROMISE



\* Hecho en E.E.U.U. con componentes nacionales y globales.

### WE'LL BACK YOU UP. WE'RE STANDING BY. COUNT ON IT.

The Generac Promise means that we guarantee that our home standby generators will give you peace of mind and the power to live. It means that we engineer and build them here in America. It means we stand behind them with a strong 5-year limited warranty. We promise to continue to innovate, like with our new Mobile Link™ cellular monitoring system, so you'll know the status of your generator, no matter where you are. And if you ever need to call, we're standing by 24/7, every minute of every day, ready to pick up the phone right here in Wisconsin.

**Reliable. Dependable. We promise.**