

## Hurricane Season Begins

### Be Prepared if Severe Weather is Headed our Way

Georgetown Light recommends that customers always do the following when severe weather threatens:

- keep an eye, and ear, to the news for updates on storm tracks and timing;
- know where the flashlights are and keep them handy;
- make sure there are fresh batteries in the house for radios and flashlights;
- as a last resort, if you use candles in an outage, keep them away from children and any flammable materials. Don't fall asleep without extinguishing all candles;
- bring in all lawn furniture, plants, and other decorations – they could become projectiles in heavy winds;
- make sure you have a manual can opener and an ample supply of nonperishable food in the house;
- keep all cars with a full tank of gas in the event that the power is out for any length of time; also be sure you have a safely stored supply of gas for any emergency generator equipment you may own;
- make sure that all life sustaining equipment has a fully charged battery back-up system, and that you have notified Georgetown Emergency Services;
- make sure your cell telephone is fully charged, especially if you don't have a landline;
- prepare a first aid kit with all necessary medications. Make sure that your prescriptions are filled and you have enough medication to last several days;
- know how and where to turn off electricity and water if you need to;
- turn off the lights and electrical appliances, except for the refrigerator and freezer.
- keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed if the power goes out;
- throw out any food in the refrigerator or freezer that reaches a temperature above 41° F. If you aren't sure of its freshness, throw it out;
- keep one single lamp on so that you'll know when the power is restored;
- if a storm does make landfall in New England, unplug all electrical appliances if you need to evacuate;
- remember that most cordless home phones won't work if the power is out. If you can, buy a corded phone for your house;
- have rain gear and protective clothing if you need to leave the home for any reason;
- keep cash on hand in case power is out to ATMs and you need to buy emergency supplies;
- have at least three gallons of water per person set aside as part of your disaster/emergency kit.

Customers should call Georgetown Light at 978-352-5730 to report a power outage. Do not assume that someone else has reported the outage in your neighborhood.

If a storm does cause any power outages, please remember that crews will be on hand to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

## Out in the Community



Georgetown Light recently participated in a safety day for students at the Perley School. 1st Class Lineworkers TJ Middleton and Jesse Cote displayed the lineworker equipment and reminded students to stay safe around electricity.



General Manager Dave Schofield recently visited the First Congregational Church to speak to local residents and the Council on Aging about consumer safety. Among those who welcomed the General Manager were (from left to right) Pat Sedler, Georgetown Council on Aging Director Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Margie Weaver, Dave Schofield, Council on Aging Meal Site Coordinator Mickie Locke, Council on Aging Board member Sue Gardent and Pauline Avery.



Georgetown Light recently purchased American flags which were hung on light poles throughout the downtown area with the help of local veterans.

### **Location:**

Georgetown Light Office  
94 Searle Street  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
Tel: 978-352-5730  
Fax: 978-352-5733

### **Customer Service hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
info@georgetownlight.com

### **Emergency number:**

978-352-5730

### **Payment Options**

Walk in payment  
94 Searle Street

Payment online  
[www.invoicecloud.com/georgetownlight](http://www.invoicecloud.com/georgetownlight)

Drop Box payment  
Water Dept. parking lot -  
corner of West St. and Moulton St.  
Light Dept parking lot at  
94 Searle Street

### **Holiday Closings**

July 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Independence Day  
September 7<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day  
If you have an emergency, call  
Georgetown Light at (978) 352-5730.

### **Commissioners**

Peter Dion, Chairman  
Scott Edwards  
John Smolinsky

### **General Manager**

David Schofield



## **Generator Safety**

Generators are becoming more popular in homes and businesses, and are readily available in home improvement and hardware stores. If you are thinking about buying a generator, or if you already have one, please take note of the following safety guidelines:

### **Don't connect your generator directly to your home's wiring.**

Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can backfeed into the power lines connected to your home. Utility transformers can then increase this lower electrical voltage to thousands of volts, sending enough voltage to seriously injure, or even kill, a lineworker making outage repairs. You could also damage utility equipment, your home appliances, and your generator.

If you want to hard-wire a generator to your home, it should be installed by a licensed electrician with an approved cut-off switch that will automatically disconnect the home from the power grid when the generator is being used. Please check with Georgetown Electrical Inspector before installing a hard-wired generator.

### **Don't plug a portable generator into an electrical outlet in your home or garage.**

If a generator is plugged into your home's electrical circuits, it can still backfeed power into the utility company lines. You should connect the generator to a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated power cord. Appliances can then be connected to the power cord, as long as they are in the wattage range that the generator can supply. You should also make sure that the outdoor-rated power cord has a sufficient wire gauge to handle the electrical load.

### **Don't overload the generator.**

All generators have a power rating. They should be used only when necessary and only to power a limited number of appliances or equipment.

The total wattage used by the appliances should be less than the output rating of the generator. If you put too many appliances on the generator, it could seriously damage the appliances and electronics. Overloading the generator could also cause fires in the power cord.

### **Other tips:**

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded to avoid electrical shocks. Check the generator owner's manual for correct grounding information.
- Do not store gasoline for the generator indoors. Gasoline should be stored in approved, non-glass safety containers. Don't store gasoline in an area where there is a water heater or other fuel-burning appliance in the garage. Vapor from gasoline is heavier than air and can travel along the floor. It could be ignited by a pilot light or other source of flame, such as an electric spark.
- Shut off the generator before refueling. Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator.
- Read the owner's manual before you operate the generator. If you've lost the manual, contact the manufacturer for another copy. You can often download the manual from a manufacturer's Web site.
- Only operate a generator outdoors in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home. Be sure to place the generator outside where exhaust fumes will not enter into enclosed spaces. The generator should be protected from direct exposure to rain and snow.
- Stay away from the muffler and other hot areas. Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation. Keep children away from portable electric generators at all times.



## ***In Memoriam***

Georgetown Light was saddened to learn of the passing of retired Office Manager Peggy Tidd. Peggy worked under three General Managers, beginning in the mid-1970s until her retirement in 2002. It was under her watch that the department changed from an all-paper billing system to a automated computer billing system.

Peggy is survived by her sons, Rick, of Georgetown, and Pete, and her nephew Eric.