Generating Peace of Mind during Hurricane Season and Beyond

By Jennifer Molk



AS WE HEAD INTO HURRICANE SEASON, THERE IS not much worse than losing power. All of a sudden, you scramble for the flashlight that is nowhere to be found… and out of nowhere, you're oddly hungry, in desperate need to use the microwave.

Fail.

Power outages can last for hours, if not days, and at the extreme level, can be catastrophic, posing a dangerous delay in emergency services, but on a more practical level, lock you out of your garage and worse, have the potential to ruin hundreds of dollars' worth of food in your stalled refrigerator.

The inconveniences are countless.

Panic sets in and you kick yourself for not having that emergency cache of supplies at the ready for a power outage.

Perhaps the most important item you should have purchased in the mayhem ahead of a hurricane is a generator.

As soon as that power is interrupted, the transfer switch sends a signal to your generator and tells the generator that the power is out and it needs to start up.

In this day and age, there is absolutely no reason to pout when the power goes out, thanks to an affordable generator purchased and installed by Suncoast Power Solutions in Tampa.

"When your power is out for an extended length, you're either running to the store and searching for ice to fill up your coolers, or pulling out your canned goods," says Brian Henriquez, president of Suncoast Power Solutions.

"How much do you usually spend at the grocery?" he poses. "For me, it's usually about $150 to $200 per week. Ten power outages and you've paid for your standby generator in food alone."



Suncoast Power Solutions sells, services and maintains all makes and models of generators to suit all types of situations, whether it be residential, commercial or industrial; economy or deluxe; and portable or standby.

Portable generators are designed mainly for garages, camping, tailgating and any outdoor event where you need electricity. They run off propane, diesel or gasoline, and have electric starts or a pull-cord start.

Standby generators, on the other hand, come with their own set of benefits.

"We can get most owners into a standby generator for as little as $3,000 turnkey," Brian says. "The other advantages of a standby generator (especially on natural gas) are that you're not out running around searching for gas and lugging around 45-pound gas tanks."

Standby generators are fully automatic, thanks to their companion piece—the transfer switch.

"What the transfer switch does," Brian explains, "is it's grounded inside your garage close to your electrical panel. It constantly monitors your [electricity] service provider's power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As soon as that power is interrupted, the transfer switch sends a signal to your generator and tells the generator that the power is out and it needs to start up. The generator starts, depending on the make and model, anywhere within 30 seconds.

The transfer switch will then transfer power throughout the home to anything that you've installed on the generator—any electrical devices whether it's your refrigerator, garage door opener, lights, television, receptacles, ceiling fan—all of those will be back online within 30 seconds, without you having to lift a finger.

Armed with 35 years of experience, skill and expertise, Brian and his crew are all state-licensed electrical contractors. Suncoast Power Solutions also offers solar energy options, which could save you money directly from your electricity provider. Contact Brian Henriquez at (813) 829-0037 or visit www.suncoastpowersolutions.com. ❑