**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[Month] [Day], [Year}

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**[Utility Name] Encourages Customers to Stay Safe as Utility Crews Work to Restore Power in Wake of [Hurricane/Tropical Storm Name]**

**[City], Fla. – [Date], [Year] –** [Utility Name] crews, working alongside mutual aid partners from across the state [and nation if applicable] are working to restore power to customers in the areas impacted by [Hurricane/Tropical Storm Name].

While [Hurricane/Tropical Storm Name] has passed through the [City/County name] area, it is important to remember that the danger is not over just because the storm has ended.

“The safety of our customers, and safety of the dedicated crews working tirelessly to restore power to the [City/County name] community, are of the utmost importance to us,” said [Name, Title, Utility/City Name]. “As we address the impacts of [Hurricane/Tropical Storm Name], it is vital that we all follow these important safety precautions. We appreciate everyone’s partnership and cooperation during this critical time.”

[Utility Name] reminds customers to:

* Never, ever touch a downed power line or go near one. Always assume the power line is live.
* Do not touch anything or anyone in contact with a fallen power line or other equipment.
* If a power line falls on your car, stay inside the vehicle and call for help.
* Do not pull tree limbs off power lines. Leave those for utility crews to safely handle.
* Avoid areas with debris and downed trees. There could be live power lines hidden inside.
* Also avoid chain link fences and puddles that could have become electrified by downed power lines.
* Do not attempt to make electrical repairs.
* Inspect your home’s weatherhead for damage after a storm. The weatherhead is located above the electric meter where the electrical wires exit the conduit. The weatherhead is the homeowner’s responsibility, and utility workers cannot reconnect service if it is damaged. Contact a licensed electrician for repairs.
* Never use an electrical device if it got wet. If it’s still plugged in, turn off the power at the main breaker. Wait for an electrician to check the device before using it.

For customers using generators:

* Operate portable generators in an open and ventilated area, never in the home or garage.
* Do not directly connect generators into your home’s main electrical system. This could create a back feed to the power grid and injure people working to restore the power.
* Always place the generator at least 15-20 feet from the house and away from doors and windows.
* Use battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms in your home and garage so you can detect any dangerous amounts of emissions when running a generator.
* Don’t run a portable generator in the rain unless it is covered and you are able to vent it.
* Make sure hands and feet are dry before touching or starting the generator. Avoid standing near wet areas or puddles when operating your generator.
* Before refueling, turn off a gas-powered generator and let it cool. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts can ignite. Allowing the engine to cool also reduces the risks of burns while refueling.
* Turn off your generator before turning your house power back on.

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