

## What's Happening

### Feb. 7

#### Super Bowl 55

The 2021 Super Bowl will be played at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida.

### Feb. 14

#### Valentine's Day

### Feb. 15

#### Presidents' Day

### Black History

#### Month - February

Black History Month is a month set aside to learn, honor, and celebrate the achievements of black men and women throughout history.

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## Be Prepared Before The Storm Hits

From ice storms and blizzards to tornadoes and floods, natural disasters can cause destruction and power outages, which is why it's important to be prepared with needed supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge.

Start by putting together an emergency preparedness kit that contains the essentials, including a first aid kit, flashlights, and batteries as well as enough food, water, and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. Keep your kit somewhere handy in case you have to evacuate your home in a hurry.

Get a weather radio to stay up-to-date on changes in the weather. Also, sign up for alerts to know if storms are coming your way. It's a good idea to utilize different forms of media, including following local news stations on social media. Most stations also have an app that can be downloaded.

### STORM KIT CHECKLIST

#### What do you need when the storm hits?

- ✓ **Water** (three-day supply, one gallon per person per day)
- ✓ **Canned & Prepackage Food** (three-day supply, with manual can opener and utensils)
- ✓ **First Aid Kit** (with enough supplies to cover multiple family members)
- ✓ **Flashlights** with fresh, unopened batteries
- ✓ **Clothes & Bedding**
- ✓ **Sanitation Supplies**
- ✓ **Medications**
- ✓ **Battery-operated Radio**
- ✓ **Toiletries**
- ✓ **Important Documents**



Make sure you are aware of the different weather terminology, such as the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a warning. A watch means there is the possibility of storms, and a warning means a storm has been reported and you should take cover.

Create a family plan for emergencies. Identify the responsibilities of each member of the family and places to meet in case you are separated. Ensure everyone knows what they need to do to stay safe.

Also, be aware of important electrical safety knowledge in case flooding occurs, such as:

- Avoid spaces where water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Don't turn off power at the breaker box. Instead, contact your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- If the smell of gas is apparent or if there is a suspected leak in your house, leave immediately and call your gas utility.
- If power lines are on the ground, stay far away from them and warn others to stay away. Contact the local electric utility, because the lines could still be live.
- If driving, never get out of the car if there is a downed power line, and never drive over one.

Each year, the U.S. faces an average of:



100,000  
thunderstorms

10,000 severe  
thunderstorms



5,000  
floods

1,000  
tornadoes



2 deadly  
hurricanes

Safe  
Electricity.org

research collected from the National Weather Service

## Home Owner Insurance Policies Cover Loss from Power Outages

Rock Energy Cooperative works diligently to make sure your electricity is there when you need it. But like all things, nothing is 100 percent guaranteed.

Power outages or voltage issues—whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, equipment failure, animals, or vehicles hitting power poles—can damage computer equipment, TVs, and other appliances in your home.

These events are out of our control, and Rock Energy does not compensate for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowner insurance policies will cover losses from power interruptions that are caused by lightning, windstorms, and other sources.

Make sure you're familiar with your policy and what is covered. Call your agent if you're not sure about your specific coverage.

You can help protect your own equipment by unplugging it during a storm or power outage and by installing surge protection.

## REC Employees Donate Toys To Local Salvation Army

Rock Energy Cooperative employees stepped up in December to donate new toys (unopened in original packaging) to the Salvation Army over the holiday season. This season, local Salvation Army Centers have received a much larger number of toy requests than they typically have in the past. REC has had the privilege of working with the Salvation Army for many years as part of its Rock Cooperative Care energy assistance program.



*Pictured to the right, a Salvation Army worker accepts REC's donation. Below are the toys that were donated by REC, before they were packed up and delivered to the Salvation Army.*



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

### FURNACE MAINTENANCE

To ensure your home furnace operates optimally when it's cold outside, you should employ the following maintenance tips:

- 1) Check thermostat for proper operation.
- 2) Visually inspect your tubes, vents, lines.
- 3) Clear the drainage tube.
- 4) Inspect the thermostat wires.
- 5) Clean the burners & flame sensor.
- 6) Replace furnace filter.

During the winter, your furnace is one of the most important components in your home. A properly maintained system will deliver maximum heat output without wasted energy or the risk of harmful emissions.