

FPUA

Storm Tested - Storm Ready

We at Fort Pierce Utilities (FPUA) have been tried and tested during the storm seasons of 2004 and 2005. After taking on Hurricane Wilma, the third hurricane in 13 months, we were proud to say that we restored utilities to 99% of our customers within 3 days.

Be assured that we are ready for another storm season.

- 1. Vegetation management** is the single most productive activity for reliable operation of the electric system. We regularly trim trees that might interfere with overhead lines.
- 2. All transmission poles are inspected annually**, and electric hardware is inspected every third year.
- 2. We are upgrading our system** construction standards to a level that exceeds the National Electric Safety Code requirements. Our lines are now tougher since we are using shorter poles, stronger poles, shorter span lengths, and stronger concrete poles.
- 4. All new utility construction is being placed underground.** Now, we are offering a 25% discount for those customers who request their current overhead lines to be placed underground.
- 5. We have a written and storm-tested plan** that directs our internal and external storm preparations. Before each storm season begins, we revise and update the plan. We also train all employees so they understand their individual roles and how their efforts contribute to the overall storm plan. This plan has served Fort Pierce Utilities well during the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes.
- 6. Mutual-aid agreements** are in place that allow us to bring crews from other municipal utilities in Florida and throughout the eastern US. These agreements were used extensively in 2004 and 2005 and proved valuable in quickly restoring our electric system to service. We had line crews here in 2004 that multiplied our regular forces by tenfold.
- 7. We purchase extra supplies** of materials that may be typically used in a storm-restoration process. Regular suppliers also agree to give us priority in a storm recovery situation.
- 8. We have contractor crews working regularly** on our electric system. They have agreed to bring extra personnel to Fort Pierce to restore service after a major disaster. Crews include overhead line workers, underground line workers and tree trimmers.