**Article Title**: Florida’s Electric Co-ops Prepare for Hurricane Season

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**Photos:** We have a few photos that can be used in your newsletters and/or on your social media pages. This Dropbox folder will be available for 30 days. <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/pwdtp2s9t7a3ynhrvkhwd/AFz5vZXE6lEGSPyNjr4Mj9U?rlkey=q32f9o4b89sz88kmzioepw5my&st=xyqq6m82&dl=0>

Nelson Mandela said, “One cannot be prepared for something while secretly believing it will not happen.” As Floridians, we know the next big storm is just around the corner, which is why we constantly prepare for the worst yet hope for the best.

Florida’s 18 electric co-ops gathered in Ocala for their annual workshop, organized by the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, to discuss the 2025 hurricane season. After all, there is always room for improvement, and we can all learn by working together.

As Floridians, we all know each storm has its unique challenges. This year, attendees heard from Escambia River Electric Co-op and Talquin Electric Co-op staff about the challenges and lessons learned from the tornadoes and the “once in a lifetime” snow and ice storms they were both impacted by in the last 12-months. Florida is no longer just a hurricane state. By sharing their experiences, these co-ops are helping sister co-ops discover ways to improve their ever-evolving plans.

Attendees also heard from Robb Brown and Todd Fountain with Duke Energy and Preston Bowling, Director of Marion County Emergency Management. Electric co-ops work closely with other utilities and our local county emergency management teams. Meetings like this, before a disaster strikes, are the time to continue building these relationships and learning from each other on how we can better serve our communities together during a crisis. We thank our utility and emergency management partners for their commitment to our communities and our continued partnerships.

[*insert quote from co-op attendee, if wanted*]

Co-ops continue to work together each year to prepare for what Mother Nature sends our way. Though life never gives us any guarantees, there is one certainty in the event of a crisis: electric co-ops across Florida will work together to get power restored as safely and quickly as possible. We are all stronger and better together.

*Insert Photo:*

*For tagging purposes, storm trailers pictured in link above belong to Kelly & Company.*