

Duke Energy preps for historic Irma

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — As forecasts increasingly predict that Hurricane Irma is expected to have significant impacts in North Carolina and South Carolina, Duke Energy is preparing for the storm and encouraging customers to do so as well.

"Irma is one of the most powerful storms we've seen in the Atlantic since we started keeping record," Duke Energy lead meteorologist Steve Leyton said. "While the track of the storm could still change in the coming days, it is important for people who live in its potential path to make plans now and prepare their homes and families."

Duke Energy has a detailed storm response plan. As part of the company's preparation for Hurricane Irma, line technicians and others are checking equipment, supplies and inventories to ensure there are adequate materials to make repairs and restore power outages.

To stay safe if severe weather strikes and the power goes out, Duke Energy encourages customers to create or update an

emergency supply kit to save valuable time later. The kit should include everything an individual or family would need for at least two weeks, especially medicines and other supplies that might be hard to find after a storm strikes.

Duke Energy recommends maintaining a supply of water and non-perishable food and keeping a portable radio, TV or NOAA weather radio on hand to monitor weather forecasts and important information from state and local officials.

Duke Energy customers may report all power line hazards by calling (800) 769-3766. Duke Energy Progress customers may call (800) 419-6356. Customers may also call these numbers to report power outages or text OUT to 57801.

For more information, visit duke-energy.com/safety-and-preparedness/storm-safety.

