

[WellOwner.org](#) | [Online Version](#)

WELL OWNER TIP SHEET

A private well owner newsletter brought to you by NGWA and WellOwner.org



September 2018



If you're a long-time *Well Owner Tip Sheet* subscriber, then this month's topic will come as no surprise. Unfortunately, this is the time of year when we remind well owners impacted by hurricanes and flooding how to protect their water systems through the "Hurricane/Flooding Resources" center NGWA makes available on WellOwner.org. While we realize groundwater and your well aren't always top of mind when preparing for a hurricane, a few simple steps can help reduce the burden in the wake of a storm.

With that in mind, we're sharing some thoughts from Merritt Partridge, CVCLD, NGWA Board of Directors vice president, and vice president of Florida-based Partridge Well Drilling Co. Inc. [on the best ways to protect your water well system before and after a hurricane](#). Partridge and his team are intimately familiar with this topic, responding to 70-plus service calls a day in the first week following Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

Water Well Hurricane Prep — Before the Storm

There is not a great deal to do before a storm, but these simple steps can save a great deal of time, money, and hassle later.

Protect your wellhead and pump

If your pump and wellhead are exposed to the elements, take some time to cover or secure your equipment. This will help to protect it from flying debris.

Protect electrical components

If you lose power, make sure that you turn off your pump at the circuit breaker and leave it off during the storm. Power outages can result in spikes and surges through the electrical lines and they can result in damage to electrical components.

Also, if you do not have a surge suppressor on your pump, now is the time to add one. Even if you do not lose power, surges can still take place as other areas lose and regain power.

Fill tubs and sinks

Before the storm hits, fill your tub and sinks with water. If you lose power to your pump, this water can be used to wash hands and flush toilets.

After the Storm

Depending on how bad the damage and flooding is in your area, you want to be very careful after the storm before turning the power back on to your pump.

Inspect the well and equipment

If you did not have any flooding, take a look at the equipment to make sure there is no damage. If you see damage, call a professional before you turn on, or try to operate, the pump.

You have flooding

If your property has flooding, be extra cautious before operating your well.

First and foremost, if you have flooding, **do not turn on the power**. Do not go near it to avoid electrical shock. Wait for the floodwater to abate before approaching.

For additional resources from NGWA, please visit <https://www.ngwa.org/publications-and-news/Newsroom/news-and-updates/hurricane-resources>.

If you have any suggestions on additional topics you'd like to see us cover, please feel free to respond to this email or send a note directly to amartin@ngwa.org anytime.

WellOwner.org

Informing consumers about groundwater and water wells.



The NGWA Well Owner Tip Sheet is supported by the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP.org), as part of the USEPA funded program "Improving Water Quality through Training and Technical Assistance to Private Well Owners".



Rural Community
Assistance
Partnership