

September is over and October is here. It is hard to believe the year is almost over.

Remember that Permanent Fund Dividend checks are deposited on October 5th. Be sure to dedicate a portion of your permanent fund to your Ampy per-pay electric meter.

Last month I mentioned the hurricane Harvey that hit Texas and caused incredible damage. After hurricane Harvey, hurricane Irma went through the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Florida Keys. At one point in time after Irma hit, Florida had more than 4 million people without power. Then to add insult to injury, hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico as a Category 5 hurricane. Imagine winds in excess of 175 miles per hour. I don't know of many structures that can withstand a wind as strong as that. As I write this, the entire island of Puerto Rico is almost completely destroyed. There is no power, no running water, no sanitary facilities almost no flights arriving or leaving. Things are not good there.

All of this should serve to remind people that we are one natural disaster away from being almost totally self-sufficient. Here at INNEC we work hard to keep the power on at all times but when I see what has happened in Florida and beyond it makes me remember a storm like we had years ago that took down 11 of our power poles. Newhalen was without power for about a week.

If you don't have a small generator, it would probably be worthwhile to get one just to have lights and be able to run your heater until we can repair whatever may be broken in the event of something like this happening again. It is especially good to think about a generator before winter hits as it seems most power failures happen in the winter when it is cold and dark.

It is really easy to put off preparing for an emergency and then when it happens, you think "man I should have this or that or I should have done this or that". The time to prepare is now before it is too late.

We should always remember that we live in a very earthquake prone place and if another big quake like the 1964 Good Friday quake hits, we may be on our own out here for quite some time while Anchorage rebuilds. Scientists say that it is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when.

This is just food for thought and I think of it often as I watch the news and see what is going on in the rest of the world. We tend to forget that we are in a very isolated place and can be even more isolated in the event of some sort of natural disaster.

I hope everyone had a great September and wish you all a fantastic October.