

Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Hurricanes

Provided by CMH Risk Partners

Hurricanes are severe tropical storms with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater. Hurricane winds can reach 160 miles per hour and extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes bring torrential rains and a storm surge of ocean water that crashes into land as the storm approaches. Hurricanes also spawn tornadoes. In the United States, the National Weather Service issues hurricane advisories as soon as a hurricane appears to be a threat. The hurricane season lasts from June through November.

Your business should have plans for preparing for hurricanes. The following are considerations when developing your plans:

Before the Storm	Yes	No	N/A
Have you purchased a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery backup to listen for hurricane watches and warnings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made plans for communicating with employees before and after a hurricane?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you established facility shutdown procedures and warning and evacuation procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a plan in place to secure roof fixtures, access scuttles, and skylights?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you surveyed the exterior of your facility and made plans to protect outside equipment and structures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have plans to protect windows, such as by installing permanent storm shutters, which offer the best protection, or covering windows with 5/8' marine plywood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made plans for assisting employees who may need transportation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered the need for backup systems, such as alternate power sources (e.g., generators or gasoline-powered pumps), and battery-powered emergency lighting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered the need for damming and diking supplies, such as sand bags, to protect the property from floodwaters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered the need for portable and fixed sump pumps to remove floodwater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you asked your local emergency management office about community evacuation plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you developed records retention and backup programs to ensure vital business records and computer data are not lost during a storm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you prepared to move your records, computers, and other items to a protected place within your facility or to another location in the event of a hurricane emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made provisions to shelter employees in place, including provisions for food, water, and petty cash (for incidentals after the storm)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Do you have trained staff who can respond to emergencies (i.e., fire, medical, etc.), when outside resources may not be available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a plan in place to secure the utilities to reduce the chance of a fire if the utilities are compromised?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
During the Storm	Yes	No	N/A
Is someone assigned to monitor NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made provisions for a fire watch, in the event that the fixed protection is compromised during the storm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you provided for monitoring of equipment processes that must remain on during a storm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made a plan for shutting down electric equipment during a power interruption to reduce start-up loading?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After the Storm	Yes	No	N/A
Have you developed a plan and provided resources to document damage to property, including taking photographs or video?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you developed an emergency repair plan to provide temporary securement of the property for damage, such as broken windows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a resource list of contractors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have agreements with these contractors to provide repairs as a first property customer, during an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>