

Hurricane

PROCEDURES

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, the generic term for a low-pressure system that generally forms in the tropics near the equator. A typical cyclone takes the form of thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface.



Hurricanes can produce widespread torrential rains and deadly floods. Slow moving storms and tropical storms moving into mountainous regions tend to produce especially heavy rain which can trigger landslides or mud slides. Flash flooding due to the intense rainfall can persist near rivers and streams for several days or more after the storm passes.

Where and When:

All states on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas can experience hurricanes or tropical storms. Parts of the Southwest United States and the Pacific Coast experience heavy rains and floods each year from hurricanes spawned off Mexico.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can cause catastrophic damage from areas along the coastlines to land several hundred miles inland. They can also spawn tornadoes, microbursts, and coastal storm surges.

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November, with the peak season from mid-August to late October. During an average hurricane season there are about 10 tropical cyclones that form. Typically, between five and seven of these storms reach the necessary wind speed to be categorized as hurricanes.

The months between December and May see the fewest hurricanes.

Hurricane Categories:

Hurricanes are classified using the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Category Three and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous and can cause substantial damage.

Category One Hurricanes	Category Two Hurricanes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustained Wind Speed: 74 to 95 miles per hour• Damage Potential: Minimal. Unanchored mobile homes damaged, some vegetation, structures and signs destroyed• Storm Surge: Four to five feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustained Wind Speed: 96 to 110 miles per hour• Damage Potential: Moderate. All mobile homes damaged, roofs damaged, small boats destroyed and moderate flooding• Storm Surge: Six to eight feet

<p>Category Three Hurricanes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained Wind Speed: 111 to 130 miles per hour • Damage Potential: Extensive. Small buildings destroyed and low-lying roads cut off • Storm Surge: Nine to 12 feet 	<p>Category Four Hurricanes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained Wind Speed: 131 to 155 miles per hour • Damage Potential: Extreme. Roofs destroyed, trees knocked down, roads cut off, mobile homes destroyed, and beach homes flooded • Storm Surge: 13 to 18 feet
<p>Category Five Hurricanes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained Wind Speed: More than 155 miles per hour • Damage Potential: Catastrophic. Most buildings and vegetation destroyed, major roads cut off and homes flooded • Storm Surge: More than 18 feet 	

Hurricane and Tropical Storm Terminology:

The following terms are used to identify different threats and threat levels associated with hurricanes and tropical storms:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical Depression. A tropical depression is an organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 miles per hour (33 knots) or less. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch. Watches indicate that hurricane and tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 36 hours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical Storm. A tropical storm is organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 miles per hour (34 to 63 knots). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Surge. A storm surge is a dome of water pushed onshore by hurricane and tropical storm winds. Storm surges can reach 25 feet high and be 50 to 1000 miles wide.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurricane. A hurricane is an intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) or higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Tide. The storm tide is a combination of the storm surge and the normal tide (i.e., a 15-foot storm surge combined with a two-foot normal high tide over the mean sea level created a 17-foot storm tide).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurricane/Tropical Storm Warning. Storm warnings mean that hurricane or tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within 24 hours. 	

Safety Tips for a Blackout:

Use the following safety tips if you return to your practice location or home only to find yourself in a blackout:

- Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles.
- Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Do not run a generator inside your practice location, home, or garage. If you use a generator, connect the equipment you wish to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to your practice location or home's electrical system.
- Listen to local radio and television for updated information.

Water Treatment Tips:

In addition to having a bad odor and taste, water from questionable sources may be contaminated by a variety of microorganisms, including bacteria and parasites that cause diseases such as dysentery, cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis. All water of uncertain purity should be treated before use.

To treat water, follow these steps:

- Filter the water using a piece of cloth or coffee filter to remove solid particles.
- Bring it to a rolling boil for about one full minute.
- Let it cool for at least 30 minutes. Water must be cool, or the chlorine treatment described below will be useless.
- Add 16 drops of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water, or eight drops per 2-liter bottle of water. Stir to mix. Sodium hypochlorite of a 5.25 to 6 percent concentration should be the only active ingredient in the bleach. There should not be any added soap or fragrances. A major bleach manufacturer has also added sodium

hydroxide as an active ingredient, which they state does not pose a health risk for water treatment.

- Let stand for 30 minutes.
- If the water smells of chlorine, you can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, add 16 more drops of chlorine bleach per gallon of water (or eight drops per 2-liter bottle of water), let stand for 30 minutes, and smell it again. If it smells of chlorine, you can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, discard it and find another source of water.

CHECKLIST

HURRICANE- BEFORE THE STORM

Before the Storm Is Predicted	COMPLETED
Take photos or videos to document the interior and exterior of the building for insurance purposes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update your Associates and Doctors' emergency contact information regularly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back up all data on remote servers and in the cloud.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Determine safe evacuation routes as well as alternative routes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspect and make repairs to drains, gutters and flashing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure all roof-mounted equipment is strapped or anchored to the roof deck support.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install windstorm shutters over windows and doors.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replenish your supply of water, nonperishable food, batteries, cleaning supplies and first-aid supplies.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have cash on hand since banks may not be open after the hurricane.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure generator, fire pump and company-owned vehicle fuel supplies are full.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test any emergency generators.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create an emergency response team and define clear roles and responsibilities for each person.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct regular drills to prepare Associates and Doctors for what to do during a hurricane.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify which Associates and Doctors are crucial for operations and make sure they understand what's expected of them during a hurricane.	<input type="checkbox"/>
After the Storm Is Predicted	COMPLETED
Remove as many goods as possible from the floor, shipping them out of the facility, if possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn off the natural gas supply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shut down electrical power to sites in the path of the storm.	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECKLIST

HURRICANE- DURING THE STORM

If your business operates in a region that is at high risk for hurricanes, it's your responsibility to take precautions during the storm to protect your property and people.

During the Storm	COMPLETED
Move personnel to safe locations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure all windows, doors, and outdoor objects/equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give Associates and Doctors plenty of time to relocate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop nonessential operations 12 hours before impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicate with Associates and Doctors and encourage them to take necessary precautions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activate two-way communication channels with Associates and Doctors.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patrol the property to watch for roof leaks, pipe breakage, fire, or structural damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor any equipment that must remain online.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn off electrical switches during power outage.	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECKLIST

HURRICANE- AFTER THE STORM

In the aftermath of a hurricane, your business will likely have to deal with property damage. Your priority should be to ensure the safety of your Associates and Doctors and other stakeholders, but these recovery steps can also keep your business safe after a hurricane passes.

After the Storm	Yes
Listen to the radio, TV, and local authorities to make sure the storm has passed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not enter the building(s) until the area is declared safe.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the building professionally inspected if you have concerns that any damage could pose a safety hazard to Associates and Doctors or patients.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicate with Associates and Doctors through designated channels.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact Associates and Doctors, suppliers, and patients to inform them of any disruptions in operations and an anticipated date when they can expect it to resume.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure the building while repairs are being made or if relocation of business activity is necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure utilities are restored and in safe working order before resuming business operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair and clean your facility to ensure the environment is free of any safety hazards before resuming business operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enforce "no smoking" rules until it's determined there are no flammable liquid or gas releases.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn off any natural or propane gas lines that feed into the building(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure 24-hour security to protect against looting.	<input type="checkbox"/>
RECOVERY STEPS	
Assess damage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make note of any structural damage to building(s).• Note any damage to equipment.• Note any lost or damaged inventory (both materials for business use and products for sale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
File an insurance claim.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Document losses with photos and videos.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Track all costs associated with the claims process.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Compile a list of concerns that must be addressed before you are able to reopen.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact Associates and Doctors, suppliers, and patients to inform them of any disruptions in operation and an anticipated date when they can expect it to resume.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the building professionally inspected if you have concerns that any damage could pose a safety hazard to Associates and Doctors or patients.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure the building while repairs are being made or if relocation of business activity is necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure utilities are restored and in safe working order before resuming business operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair and clean your facility to ensure the environment is free of any safety hazards before resuming business operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>