



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR YOUR PRODUCTION

Miami-Dade's scenic locations, skilled crew base, developed infrastructure, multi-culture diversity and film friendly attitude are some of the attributes that make us a renowned production center and probably why you have selected our destination for your production.

If your production is taking place during hurricane season, which runs from **June 1st to November 30th**, there are few things you will need to know in the event of a hurricane. Hurricanes are one of the most devastating and costly natural disasters to experience, and a fact of life that your production should be ready to face in the unlikely event that a Hurricane Warning is issued while your production is in town.

The goal of this Hurricane Preparedness brochure is to inform you of the hazards and provide knowledge which can be used to take **ACTION**. It is important to be prepared in the event of a storm and to know what to do before, during and after a hurricane should strike.

HURRICANE FACTS

What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, which is a generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. The cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

Tropical Depression

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds* of 38 mph (33 kt**) or less.

Tropical Storm

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph (34-63 kt).

Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 kt) or higher

During hurricane season, which runs from **June 1st to November 30th**, conditions in the tropics become optimal for the development of hurricanes. Each year, an average of 10 tropical storms develop in the tropics. Of these, 6 are likely to become hurricanes. While many of these storms do not

affect the U.S. coastline, the threat of a major impact from a hurricane is still a real concern. In an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the U.S. coastline, causing as many as 50 to 100 casualties.

In order to give you a better idea of the months of the year, which historically have had the most hurricanes, please see the chart below.

Table 8. Tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico by month of origin, [updated from Neumann et al. (1999)], and for hurricanes striking the U.S. mainland 1900-2000 [updated from Hebert et al. (1997)].

MONTH	1944-2000 TROPICAL STORMS AND HURRICANES		1944-2000 HURRICANES		1900-2000 U.S. HURRICANES	
	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average
JANUARY-APRIL	3	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.00
MAY	8	0.1	2	*	0	0.00
JUNE	31	0.5	11	0.2	11	0.11
JULY	50	0.9	22	0.4	18	0.18
AUGUST	151	2.6	95	1.6	42	0.42
SEPTEMBER	198	3.5	129	2.3	65	0.64
OCTOBER	100	1.8	60	1.1	25	0.25
NOVEMBER	26	0.5	16	0.3	4	0.04
DECEMBER	4	0.1	2	*	0	0.00
YEAR	571	10.0	337	5.9	165	1.63

¹ Includes subtropical storms after 1967. See Neumann et al. (1999) for details.
 * Less than 0.05.

The severity of hurricanes (and the potential damage they can cause) are classified in different categories of severity according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. A Category 1 storm has the lowest wind speeds, while a Category 5 hurricane has the strongest. **These are relative terms, because lower category storms can sometimes inflict greater damage than higher category storms, depending on where they strike and the particular hazards they bring.** In fact, tropical storms can also produce significant damage and loss of life, mainly due to flooding.

Category 1: Winds 74-95mph - No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.

Category 2: Winds 96-110mph - Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes,

and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

Category 3: Winds 111-130 mph - Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet ASL may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.

Category 4: Winds 131-155 mph - More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.

Category 5: Winds greater than 155 mph - Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

*** Sustained winds**

A 1-minute average wind measured at about 33 ft (10 meters) above the surface.

**** 1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour or 1.15 statute miles per hour. Abbreviated as "kt".**

WATCH VS. WARNING - KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

- A **HURRICANE WATCH** issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your production's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.
- A **HURRICANE WARNING** issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, your production should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

READY, SET, SAFETY

When the threat of a storm becomes real, it is imperative to have a plan in place to help you make timely and useful preparations in case disaster should strike. Always stay tuned to television and radio stations for the mayor and county manager's bulletins. For up to the minute information, visit www.miamidade.gov/oem/. The Emergency Operations Center uses the Ready, Set, Safety system to inform residents and visitors of the level of alert they should follow.

▶ The **Ready mode** indicates that a threat has been identified such as a tropical storm. This is the time when you will need to review your hurricane plans and ensure that all their supplies are in order. You will need to clean up your production construction site if you have one. If you have built a set, make sure that it is securely tied down.

▶ The **Set mode** indicates that a hurricane will likely affect the community. At this stage, you should begin implementing your hurricane plan. This is the time to evacuate if you are in a hurricane evacuation zone.

▶ The **Safety mode** means the community will definitely feel the impact of the storm. This is the time to shelter in place, cease all outdoor preparations and retire to your shelter's safe room. The Mayor, in concert with the media, will tell you what mode we are in.

Ready

- Gas up your vehicle(s)
- Review Plan / Inventory supplies
- Map your Evacuation routes
- Monitor Media
- Communications Plan in place
- Construction Site cleanup
- If you have built an exterior set, make sure that it is securely tied down.

Set

Prepare to evacuate:

- Secure Data
- Employee plans in place

SAFETY

Evacuate w/ Evacuation Orders:

Since disaster is unpredictable, it is important to consider evacuation and sheltering prior to a mandatory evacuation order.

Public transportation may be provided to help during mandated hurricane evacuations.

- Listen to the advice of local officials and tune in to local TV stations for this information as well as the latest National Hurricane Forecasts
- If you are in evacuation zone A, which includes Miami Beach and the barrier islands, and a mandatory evacuation order has been issued, you will need to evacuate immediately as bridges will be closed or lifted.
- Make the necessary plans to stay with a friend, go to a hotel that is not in an evacuation zone or as a last resort, go to a public shelter. Please note that you should make your hotel reservations as soon as a Hurricane Watch is issued as most hotels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find hotel room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas.

Each of these decisions requires advance planning and preparation.

PLEASE SEE EVACUATION MAP.

Shelter in Place:

- Stay in doors
- Protect yourself inside
- Take refuge if outside or traveling
- Do not stay in cars

BE PREPARED

The most important thing that you can do is to be informed and prepared. Disaster prevention includes both being prepared as well as reducing damages (mitigation). The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has specific recommendations on how you can prepare. They can save your life and your property:

- Begin with a solid hurricane plan. Some people actually write them out and it is wise to do so. You need to identify your vulnerabilities. Have I purchased all of my hurricane supplies - food, water (one gallon per person per day), batteries, personal hygiene items, and medicine for at least two weeks?

- Are you in the Zone? Look in BellSouth's White pages and determine if you are in an evacuation zone or look at the map we have provided, and, if so, make arrangements to stay with friends or at a hotel. If you have no one to stay with, the American Red Cross will open Hurricane Evacuation Centers (HEC's) that will provide a safe place, but these are shelters of last resort and you must bring medicine, sleeping bags and snacks with you. No pets are allowed. Miami Dade Transit has buses that will take you from hurricane pick-up points to the HEC's. Pick-up sites can be found on www.miamidade.gov/oem .
- Establish an out-of-state or area phone number to relay messages to friends and family.
- Once a tropical storm has formed monitor the National Hurricane Center forecasts which are released at 5 a.m., 11a.m., 5 p.m. and 11p.m.
- Keep a battery-operated radio and two weeks supply of batteries on hand at all times.
- Take stock. If you are not in an evacuation zone, make sure that where you are staying is safe.
- Take refuge in an interior hallway or smaller room with no windows, like a closet near load bearing walls.
- Keep a mattress nearby to protect your head.
- Be sure to leave a clear path to exit in case of fire and keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Only use battery operated lamps or flashlights.

SAFETY AFTER THE STORM:

- Car accidents are the main cause of injury after a hurricane; treat all intersections like a 4-way stop. Combine your trips and drive only if it's absolutely necessary.
- Stay away from all downed utility lines and do not drive over them. Do not wade in floodwaters after a storm.
- Limit your phone calls to absolute necessity and only call 911 for life threatening emergencies.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Useful websites:**

- National Hurricane Center www.nhc.noaa.gov
- Miami Dade Office of Emergency Management
<http://www.miamidade.gov/oem>
- American Red Cross Miami/Keys Chapter www.miamiredcross.org
- Miami-Dade Building Code Compliance www.buildingcodeonline.com
- Florida Division of Emergency Management www.floridadisaster.org
- The Weather Channel www.weather.com

- **Important Contact Numbers:**

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- The Answer Center (rumor control) 305-468-5900 **
Get answers from the source. The county's Answer Center can inform you on disaster preparedness from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday. As a storm approaches, the Answer Center will operate 24-hours a day. Operators speak English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.
*** 24-hour hotline during hurricanes and emergency situations only.*
- Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) 305-513-7700

DISASTER RESPONSE & RECOVERY AGENCIES

- Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management 305-468-5400
- American Red Cross 305-644-1200
- Salvation Army 305-637-6700
- Miami-Dade Building Code Compliance 305-375-2901

- **FILM OFFICES:**

- **Miami-Dade Mayor's Office of Film & Entertainment**
Tel. 305-375-3288
Website: www.FilMiami.org
- **City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Culture, Office of Film and Event Production**
Tel. 305.673-7070
- **City of Miami Office of Film, Arts & Entertainment**
Tel. 305-860-3823

HURRICANE STORM SURGE EVACUATION MAP

