

Telcom WATCH

Edition 146, May 31, 2013

IMPORTANT NOTICE –
Please Distribute to the General Manager or Insurance Contact

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE?

Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that typically form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. People who live in hurricane prone communities should know their vulnerabilities and what actions should be taken to reduce the effects of these devastating storms. The information in this Telcom Watch can be used to save lives at work, home, while on the road, or on the water. Even those of you who don't live in "typical" hurricane prone areas, should know what to do if you experience the results as a hurricane can affect more areas than just at the beach...just ask our friends in VT.

STEP 1: EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Personally, get an Emergency Supply Kit, which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, medicines, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car in case you are told to evacuate. From a business standpoint, "dust off" your business continuity/emergency plan and make sure everyone knows their responsibilities.

STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN

Prepare your family

Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. So, it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in case of an emergency. Your business needs its people after a hurricane. So, being personally prepared helps both you and your company.

Prepare your business

Businesses have a critical role in preparedness, in general. Telecommunications business are critical parts of a community's recovery after a disaster. Putting a disaster plan in motion now will improve the likelihood that your company will survive and recover. Telcom can assist you with this project.

Plan to protect your property

Hurricanes have heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection if available in your community. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your home/business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business please contact us.

2013 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Andrea
Barry
Chantal
Dorian
Erin
Fernand
Gabrielle
Humberto
Ingrid
Jerry
Karen
Lorenzo
Melissa
Nestor
Olga
Pablo
Rebekah
Sebastien
Tanya
Van
Wendy

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In addition to insurance, you should also:

- Cover all of your home/business windows with pre-cut plywood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Turn off utilities as instructed. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage, it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

STEP 3: BE INFORMED

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: lightning, tornadoes, flooding, storm surge, high winds, even landslides or mudslides can be triggered in mountainous regions. Look carefully at the safety actions associated with each type of hurricane hazard and prepare your family/business disaster plan accordingly. But remember, this is only a guide. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE TERMS THAT ARE USED TO IDENTIFY A HURRICANE

A **hurricane watch** means a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments.

A **hurricane warning** is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. The National Weather Service is responsible for protecting life and property through issuance of timely watches and warnings, but it is essential that your family be ready before a storm approaches.

FIVE HURRICANE CATEGORIES

Hurricanes are classified 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 warrant your full attention.

2013 N. Pacific Hurricane Names

Alvin
Barbara
Cosme
Dalila
Erick
Flossie
Gil
Henriette
Ivo
Juliette
Kiko
Lorena
Manuel
Narda
Octave
Priscilla
Raymond
Sonia
Tico
Velma
Wallis
Xina
York
Zelda

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SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

CATEGORY	WINDS	DAMAGE
1	74-95 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor damage to exterior of buildings • Toppled tree branches, uprooting of smaller trees • Extensive damage to power lines, power outages
2	96-110 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major damage to exterior of buildings • Uprooting of small trees and many roads blocked • Guaranteed power outages for long periods of time – days to weeks
3	111-130 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive damage to exterior of buildings • Many trees uprooted and many roads blocked • Extremely limited availability of water and electricity
4	131-155 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of roof structure and/or some exterior walls • Most trees uprooted and most power lines down • Limited road access due to debris • Power outages lasting for weeks to months
5	More than 155 MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high percentage of buildings will be destroyed • Fallen trees and power lines isolate most areas • Power outages lasting for weeks to months • Most areas will be uninhabitable

LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE...

We all vividly remember the horrifying visions of the past hurricanes. If we don't learn from storms of the past, and prepare ourselves for the next major hurricane, then we are doomed to repeat the results.

As always, if you need help with Hurricane Preparedness or assistance after your area has been hit by a hurricane, Telcom is always there for you – just a phone call or email away.

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