

HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR



Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Partnership

Hurricane Preparedness Resource Document

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Purpose

This document is designed to provide resources, trainings, and a compilation of after action and lessons learned documents for members of the Healthcare and Public Health to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. It includes independent study courses, important after-action reports and lessons learned documents from past hurricanes, and information on where to go to stay up-to-date on hurricane developments if they arise.

Hurricane Tracking

These websites provide information on hurricane development both past and present

- [The National Hurricane Center](#): The National Hurricane Center (NHC) tracks and analyses developing hurricanes. The NHC homepage lists any active hurricanes and cyclones. There are separate sections for the Pacific and the Atlantic.
- [NOAA's historical hurricane tracking tool](#) provides information on the severity and frequency of past hurricanes.

Hurricane Planning and Preparedness

These resources offer a starting point for preparing for and understanding hurricanes.

- [Know your evacuation zone](#): Evacuation zones are areas that may be impacted by hurricane flooding. Many communities designate evacuation zones and routes to get citizens to safety. This information is typically found on the websites of state, county, or town emergency management offices. If a hurricane threatens a community and local officials say it's time to evacuate, residents should evacuate immediately. Do not wait for the next forecast.
- [Prepare Your Organization for a Hurricane Playbook -FEMA](#): This "Playbook" provides facilities, with tools and resources to support your preparedness efforts by outlining important discussions and considerations for facilities. It also provides an outline for holding a hurricane preparedness table top exercise at your facility.

Hurricane Planning and Preparedness (Cont.)

- [Get Alerts and Warnings](#): Through the FEMA app you can receive timely information about weather conditions or other emergencies, direct alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States, and to learn what to do before, during, and after emergencies.
- [Ready.gov Hurricane Guidance](#) for individuals: This webpage provides information on preparing for a hurricane and describes what various alert levels mean and what you should do.
- [Public Health Emergency Website - Hurricane Page](#): This webpage provides basic information on what to consider when preparing for a hurricane.
- **Prepare your personal affairs**: When disaster strikes even professionals need to ensure their personal affairs are in order.
 - Know how you'll contact and reconnect with family if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find. Get started on your plan at <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>.
 - Having insurance for your home or business property is the best way to ensure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild, or replace whatever is damaged. Get started with the Document and Insure Your Property guide on <http://www.floodsmart.gov/> to learn more about purchasing flood insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program.

Hurricane After Action Reports and Lessons Learned Documents

The following documents provide important information on lessons learned from past hurricanes.

- [ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection](#) (2017): A compilation of lessons learned following the 2017 Hurricane Season that impacted the South Eastern portion of the U.S.
- [Personal and professional challenges confronted by hospital staff following hurricane sandy - a qualitative assessment of management perspectives](#) (2016): This research article from BMC Emergency Medicine examines the challenges faced by hospital staffing during Hurricane Sandy and makes recommendations for future hurricanes.
- [Measuring Disaster Resilience: The Impact of Hurricane Sandy on Critical Infrastructure Systems](#) (2014): This scholarly article argues that there needs to be a paradigm shift in disaster risk management is needed: instead of focusing on predicting events, resilience needs to be improved as a basis for adequate response to any event. The results of this research are illustrated by a case study that analyses the impact of Hurricane Sandy. The findings highlight the need for a framework that combines qualitative and quantitative information from heterogeneous sources to improve disaster resilience.
- [HHS Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response during Superstorm Sandy](#) (2014): This Department of Health and Human Services study looks at how hospitals prepared and responded to Hurricane Sandy and makes recommendations for preparing for future storms.
- [Lessons Learned: Social Media and Hurricane Sandy](#) (2013): A study by the Department of Homeland Security on social media, what could be learned about it from Hurricane Sandy and how social media can be used during a hurricane.
- [Consequences of critical infrastructure interdependencies: lessons from the 2004 hurricane season in Florida](#) (2009): This paper summarizes a study conducted by Virginia Tech for the American Lifelines Alliance (ALA) in 2005 to document interdependencies and impacts among utilities and transportation systems (lifelines) associated with the 2004 hurricane season in Florida.

Hurricane After Action Reports and Lessons Learned Documents (cont.)

- [Preparing for Critical Infrastructure Breakdowns - the limits of crisis management & the need for resilience](#) (2007): Modern societies are widely considered to harbor an increased propensity for breakdowns of their critical infrastructure (CI) systems. While such breakdowns have proven rather rare, Hurricane Katrina has demonstrated the catastrophic consequences of such breakdowns. This article explores how public authorities can effectively prepare to cope with these rare events.

Independent Study Courses

Independent study courses from The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can be taken from an individual's computer and at the pace of the learner.

- [IS-324.A: Community Hurricane Preparedness](#): This computer-based course, Community Hurricane Preparedness, is to provide those involved in the decision-making process for hurricanes with basic information about:
 - How hurricanes form
 - The hazards they pose
 - How the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts future hurricane behavior
 - What tools and guiding principles can help emergency managers prepare their communities
- [IS-271.A: Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk, 2nd Edition](#): Anticipating Hazardous Weather and Community Risk, 2nd Edition provides emergency managers and other decision makers with background information about weather, natural hazards, and preparedness. This module offers web-based content designed to address topics covered in the multi-day Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness course offered by FEMA and the NWC. The module also complements other onsite courses by those agencies. This training module covers:
 - Weather basics
 - Weather forecasting
 - Threats analysis and hazards planning
 - Fact sheets for weather and non-weather-related hazards
 - Warning partnership information
 - Human behavior and community response
 - A desktop exercise allowing you to apply what you've learned