



Security Spotlight

An Informational Guide for Securitas Clients

Prepare, respond, recover

Given the potential disruption to business continuity and possibility for personal and property damage, it is important to know how to prepare, respond, and recover. The [Ready.Gov website](#) provides practical guidance for preparing to weather a storm at home or work.

Identify the team responsible for emergency preparedness at your workplace. Workplace safety and emergency strategies should include communication with local, state, and federal law enforcement. Weather emergency plans should align with other existing emergency plans for the worksite. Periodically review the plan so that it is current and considers any relevant variables. A hurricane readiness plan might include the following actions:

- Register for emergency alerts. In addition to any community-based system, also be aware of warnings from the [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Weather Radio](#).



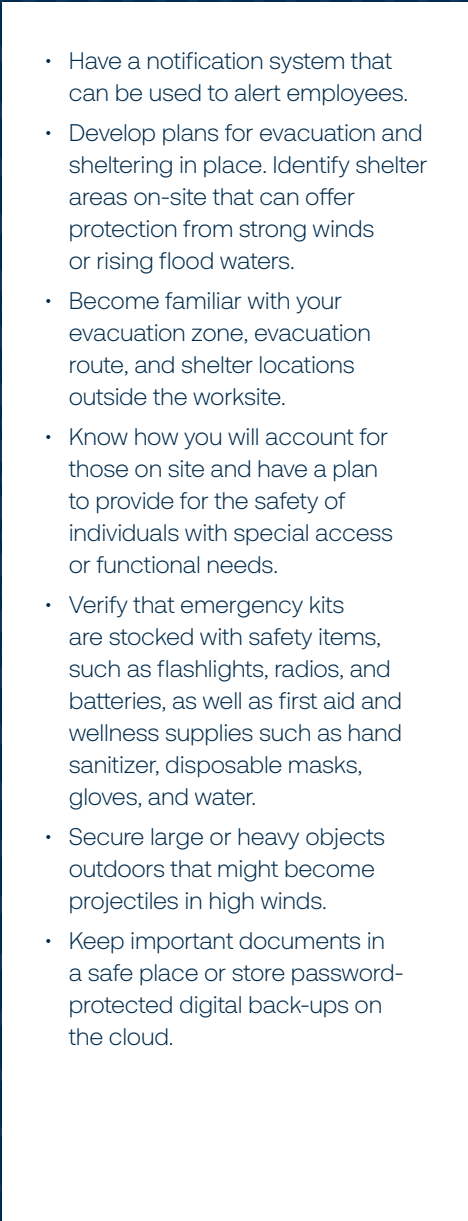
Hurricane safety

Hurricane season runs from May 15–November 30 in the Eastern Pacific and from June 1–November 30 in the Atlantic and Central Pacific each year. Early in the year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) releases a forecast of anticipated tropical storm activity. The number of storms predicted is based on several factors, including the presence or absence of other weather phenomena such as El Niño. In the Atlantic, a typical hurricane season has 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes and 3 are

classified as major hurricanes. It is not possible to accurately predict which, if any, of these will make landfall or where they will come ashore.

Potential for devastation

Hurricanes can be very powerful, costly, and dangerous. An average hurricane produces 200 times the amount of power that can be generated by all the electrical power plants in the world and enough rainfall to fill more than 22 million swimming pools. Hurricanes can also be quite large. An average storm covers an area greater than 100 to 300 miles in diameter.



- Have a notification system that can be used to alert employees.
- Develop plans for evacuation and sheltering in place. Identify shelter areas on-site that can offer protection from strong winds or rising flood waters.
- Become familiar with your evacuation zone, evacuation route, and shelter locations outside the worksite.
- Know how you will account for those on site and have a plan to provide for the safety of individuals with special access or functional needs.
- Verify that emergency kits are stocked with safety items, such as flashlights, radios, and batteries, as well as first aid and wellness supplies such as hand sanitizer, disposable masks, gloves, and water.
- Secure large or heavy objects outdoors that might become projectiles in high winds.
- Keep important documents in a safe place or store password-protected digital back-ups on the cloud.

Given their size and power, it is not surprising that a hurricane poses financial, operational, and safety risks. The combination of winds, which can reach over 155 miles per hour, and heavy rains can cause flooding, uprooted trees, and downed power lines. Hurricanes can also trigger landslides and mudslides which can make roads impassable for days. These storms can cause billions of dollars in property damage and produce conditions that lead to loss of life. In addition to physical damage, hurricanes may cause massive power outages that can last for weeks.

Weathering the storm

Once the storm hits, conditions can change rapidly. Listen to the radio or TV for information and be careful when using the telephone. Lightning can travel through telephone wires. Stay away from windows and glass doors and be prepared to evacuate, should it become necessary. To avoid being trapped if there is a power outage, do not use the elevators. The weather might calm with arrival of the eye of the storm. Don't be fooled; the

winds will increase again as it passes
over your location.

● Flood Safety

Water can be very dangerous. Seek shelter if a flood warning is issued. Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Six inches of moving water is enough to knock a person down, and one foot of moving water can sweep away a vehicle. Stay off bridges over fast-moving water and do not drive through standing water; it may be deeper than you think and can cause your vehicle to become inoperable.

Getting back to business

Many factors will impact recovery after the hurricane passes, including the strength of the storm and whether it hit your location directly. Monitor the radio or TV for weather updates and information about local conditions such as road closures, flooding, and other hazards. Remain vigilant. There can be extended rainfall and flooding, even after the hurricane has passed. Account for individuals who were at the site when the storm hit and check for safety concerns and property damage when it is safe to do so.

