

# Risk Control

## 2022 - ANOTHER ABOVE AVERAGE HURRICANE SEASON?

### Regrettably, yes.

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Last month, meteorologists at [Colorado State University \(CSU\)](#) issued their first extended range forecast for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. The scientists predict 19 named storms and nine hurricanes of which four will be Category 3 or higher. As with previous years, the 2022 prediction continues the trend for an above-average hurricane season. In 2021, CSU scientists predicted 17 named storms and four major hurricanes. Last year was the third most active season, with 21 named storms and four major hurricanes. A named storm is an organized weather system with sustained winds of not less than 39 miles per hour. A major hurricane is any hurricane with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater – Category 3, 4, or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. In the Atlantic region the peak of the season occurs in mid-September.

For construction firms, a hurricane, severe winds or flooding can severely damage buildings and other structures that are uncompleted and exposed to the elements. Here are several recommendations for protecting jobsites against high winds, rain, flooding and possible collapses. For example:

- Move equipment and vehicles to safer areas.
- Move or secure chemicals and solvents that could leach into flood waters or onto surrounding areas.
- Make sure the company has enough supplies on hand to tie down and secure work and materials.
- Maintain up-to-date inventories of materials and supplies will make it easier to identify lost property in the event of a loss.
- Empty dumpsters, and remove property that can become airborne during a hurricane – such as light weight fences and screens, portable bathrooms, lighting and signage.
- Update or compile a list of vendors and suppliers that can remove debris, pump-out water, supply generators and sandbags and help with emergency repairs. Keep a file with contact information for employees, insurance agent, landlord and local municipal officials. Lists should be digital and hardcopy.
- Make sure “Smart” devices are operational and employees know what to do in the event an alarm is sent. For example, water leak detectors, low water detectors, intrusion alarms.
- Hurricane predicts start days ahead of the anticipated event. Let staff know what to expect in the event landfall is likely.

## **Resources**

American Red Cross - Hurricane Safety

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html>

U.S. Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) – Worker Safety and Health Resources for Hurricane and Flood Cleanup and Recovery

[https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/worker\\_sh\\_resources\\_hurricanes\\_floods.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/worker_sh_resources_hurricanes_floods.html)