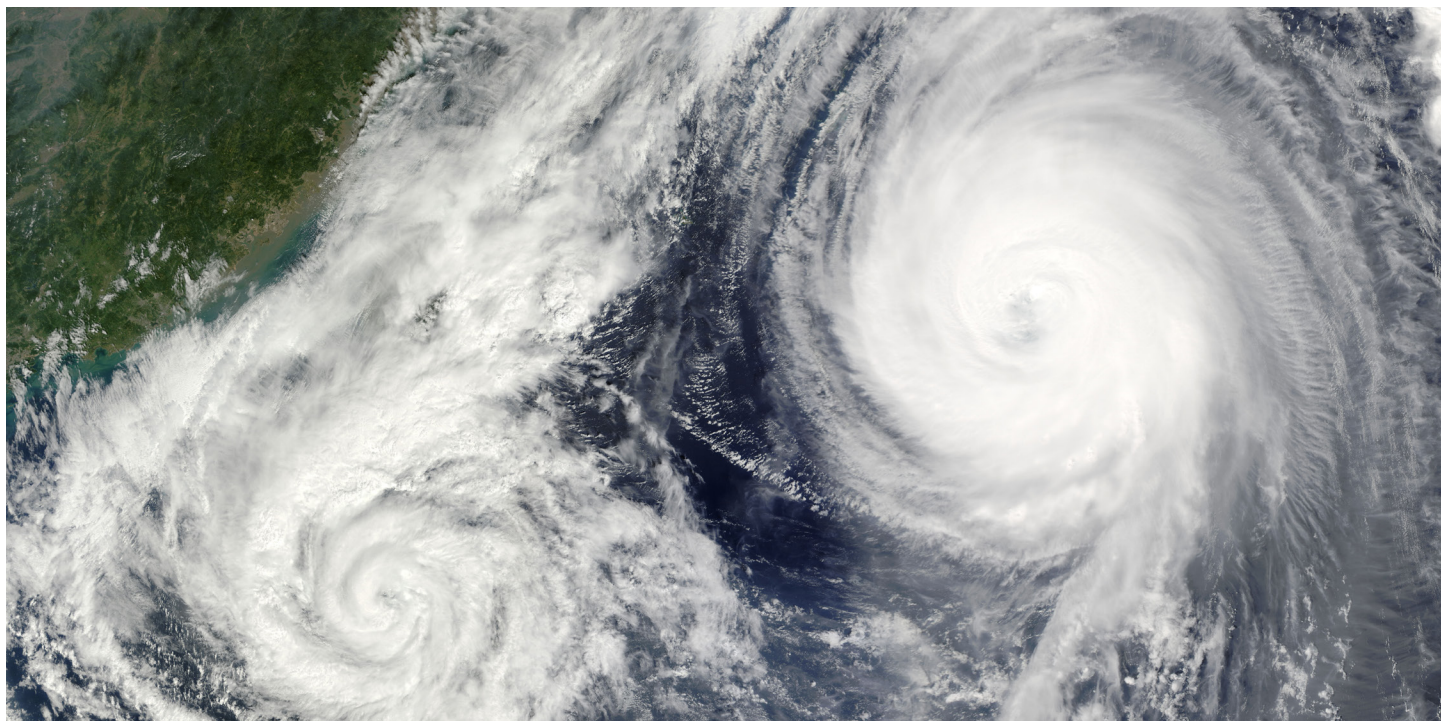




HURRICANE SEASON 2020

PREPARING IN THE “NEW NORMAL”



Atlantic Hurricane Season 2020

HOW WILL THIS YEAR BE DIFFERENT?

The beginning of June marks the start of the hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin (Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico), which lasts until December, peaking from mid-August to late October. There is a consensus in the meteorological community that this year's hurricane season will feature above average storm activity as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center predicts a 60 percent chance of an above-normal season. After a near miss last year with Category 5 Hurricane Dorian – which devastated the Bahamas—the communities in the Atlantic Basin will be confronted with a dual threat—a **natural disaster amid a pandemic**.



The COVID-19 pandemic adds another layer of complexity to hurricane response planning in an environment already challenged by complicated logistics and limited resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates the damage from the 2017 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria at \$265 billion. Federal, state, and local resources are already under logistical and budgetary strain combating the pandemic. While COVID-19 is currently showing signs of abatement, the specter of a second wave in fall will coincide with the peak of Atlantic hurricane season.

74% of tropical storm days, 87% of category 1-2 hurricane days, and approximately 95% of category 3-5 hurricane days fall between mid-August and mid-October

When assessing the potential impact of a hurricane to your home and your business, it is vital to consider the risk of all hurricanes—not just major ones. As you prepare, be aware that this year's hurricane season will be different in four major ways.

1. COMMUNICATION

We can expect the pandemic to affect communications during the hurricane season. Social distancing measures will limit the capacity and speed with which telecommunication and power companies can repair and restore communications in the aftermath of a storm. Individuals and organizations in hurricane affected areas should plan for even longer periods without internet or phone service. If needed, Global Guardian can provide satellite phone capabilities to help clients fill this gap.

2. SHELTER

COVID-19 will also have an impact on how we approach sheltering and evacuation. To prevent the spread of infection, storm shelter capacities will be capped, personal protective equipment (PPE) will need to be provided, and evacuees will be dispersed over more shelter locations than in past years. Non-congregate sheltering—the use of hotels, schools, and other dormitories—will be employed to limit the risk of infection, especially to at-risk individuals. Outside storm surge zones, individuals at a higher risk for COVID-19 may elect to shelter in place if their dwellings are built to code.



3. MEDICAL FACILITIES

Georgia, Florida, and Texas have some of the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country. The pandemic has put a special strain on the already busy and underfinanced city hospitals serving low-income populations who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In Georgia, there is concern that there may not be enough hospital beds to treat a new wave of COVID-19 patients. Moreover, whether it comes to national and out-of-state medical or logistical support this hurricane season, help is not likely to arrive on the same scale. As a recent RAND analysis put it, "With outbreaks across the entire nation, an area hit by a hurricane is less likely to get aid from other states or regions. Federal resources are limited in authority and capacity."

4. SUPPLIES

Just as temporary supply shortages in essentials were commonplace at the onset of the pandemic, hurricane essentials as well as protective gear (masks and gloves) and disinfectants will see increased demand as the hurricane season develops. Individuals and businesses will need to prepare their hurricane emergency supplies in advance so as not to encounter difficulties when there is a run on supplies.

BOTTOM LINE

A devastating hurricane can happen in any season irrespective of the long-range prediction. The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic makes it even more important to prepare and plan ahead. A second viral wave in the fall could emerge near the peak of hurricane season presenting additional health risks as well as complicating relief and recovery efforts.

The upshot of the situation is that government emergency response departments and operation centers have a head start on hurricane preparation this year. Businesses and individuals have the opportunity now to establish emergency plans and procedures to mitigate the threats of the 2020 hurricane season in a pandemic environment.

For a link to the CDC Hurricane Preparedness guide, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/hurricanepreparedness/index.html>

2020 HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK

FACTORS AT PLAY

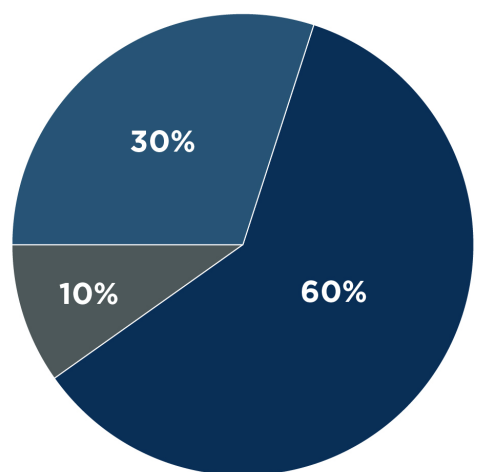
Vertical Wind Shear – The change in speed or direction of wind over a relatively short distance or time period. A lower vertical wind shear enables storms to form and strengthen, whereas, stronger wind shears disrupt storm formation and growth.

Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) – Warm ocean temperatures are the primary fuel source for tropical cyclones. Warmer than average sea surface temperatures mean more powerful, damaging storms.

ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) Cycle – El Niño events (a period of warmer than normal SSTs in the equatorial Pacific) tend to, on average, end up suppressing tropical storm activity in the Atlantic Basin and enhancing activity in the west Pacific. La Niña events (a period of cooler than normal SSTs in the equatorial Pacific) result in a greater area of low vertical wind shear, allowing more and stronger Atlantic hurricanes to form and develop.

The combination of above average SSTs, warm land temperatures and an increasing likelihood of La Niña points to an Atlantic hurricane season that will feature above-average storm activity with an above-average probability of a major hurricane making landfall.

2020 PROJECTIONS



SEASON PROBABILITY

● Above-normal ● Near-normal ● Below-normal

NAMED STORMS

13-19 (average 12)

HURRICANES

6-10 (average 6)

MAJOR HURRICANES

3-6 (average 3)

Source NOAA

PROBABILITIES OF MAJOR HURRICANE LANDFALL

	FORECAST	AVERAGE
CONTINENTAL U.S. COASTLINE	69%	52%
U.S. EAST COAST (INCLUDING FLORIDA PENINSULA)	45%	31%
GULF COAST (FLORIDA PANHANDLE – BROWNSVILLE, TX)	40%	30%

PREPARATION CHECKLIST & CONSIDERATIONS



Preparation is key to ensuring your emergency response plans are well-executed in the event of a serious hurricane. Outlined below is a recommended checklist to follow when prepping for hurricane season.

- ✓ **Take warnings seriously:** Put shutters and other hurricane protections in place when advised to do so.
- ✓ **Be sure to ensure you have backup power and communications:** This includes generators and satellite phones or other devices. If you need rentals, Global Guardian can assist with these items.
- ✓ **Ensure extra fuel for vehicles and generators:** These should also be secured, locked down, or hidden, as they will become invaluable after a storm.
- ✓ **Gather important supplies, including:**
 - Solar-powered lights and phone chargers
 - Basic, battery-operated FM radio to receive news such as food distribution centers and available emergency services
 - At least 60 days of prescription medication
 - Flash lights/headlamps
 - Spare batteries
 - Extra glasses/contacts
 - Sandbags
 - Medical kits—be sure to keep close and waterproof
 - Medical supplies, including masks and thermometers
 - Nonperishable food
 - Bottled water
 - Empty bottles (gallons of milk, juice, etc.) to fill with tap water and be used as drinking water
 - Clean-up materials such as machetes, work gloves, chainsaws, and axes
 - Spare vehicle tires (roads will be covered with sharp debris such as nails)
 - Fans for cooling and drying saturated parts of the building/home after the storm passes
- ✓ **Prior to the storm, be sure to:**
 - Fill a bathtub with water for flushing the toilet
 - Have a backup plan in place, which includes:
 - Where you will go if your home is breached by wind/water or destroyed
 - Identifying where the nearest evacuation center is
 - Wear boots or shoes during and after the storm, no sandals or flip flops
 - Be prepared to move quickly if the home needs to be evacuated
 - Prepare emergency power sources and an emergency kit
 - Be sure to use water-proof containers to store everything. Contact your local fire department, and power and water companies if you use electric-powered medical equipment at home
- ✓ **After the storm, please consider:** That a return to your water-damaged home or business may depend on the availability of N95 masks. N95s are currently being prioritized for medical and other frontline workers, but are also needed for those entering spaces with mold.



Global Guardian's Tairon Coronel leading relief efforts on the ground during Hurricane Dorian - September 2019

Global Guardian has an established track record in hurricane restoration, relief, and emergency response. In the wake of the devastating hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and several Caribbean islands, our team assisted multiple hotels, resorts, and oil & gas companies with evacuations, site assessments, communication support, and physical security. Our team helped evacuate hundreds of people from multiple locations by securing large-capacity boats, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and seaplanes to reach inaccessible areas.

Specifically, Global Guardian has deployed teams to assist and respond to six major hurricanes in the past four years, several of which made multiple landfalls. These include:

2016	2017	2018	2019
HURRICANE MATTHEW Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas Miami, FL	HURRICANE IRMA U.S. Virgin Islands Miami, FL	HURRICANE FLORENCE Carolinas	HURRICANE DORIAN Nassau, Bahamas Abaco, Bahamas
	HURRICANE MARIA U.S. Virgin Islands Puerto Rico	HURRICANE MICHAEL Florida Panhandle	



Global Guardian is standing by in the event you or your company need support during the upcoming hurricane season. Our services include:



MEDICAL RESPONSE

Global Guardian members receive access to our board-certified physicians, available for phone and telemedicine consultations. Our team can also arrange for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to be deployed and support medical efforts onsite.



EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Our team will do everything in our power to help arrange a flight to your destination, through either commercial or private aviation.



MEDICAL EVACUATION

At a time of incredible strain on medical facilities and services, our team continues to provide support and exhaust all options to get a medical aircraft available to evacuate those with a medical emergency.



COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

We have several portable satellite-generated WiFi/communications platforms, perfect for deployed teams on the ground or clients. In addition, we have satellite phones or Garmin inReach devices available to rent in the event communications are down.



SUPPLY DELIVERY

We are able to deliver food, water, and essential items, including masks, for your COVID-19 and hurricane relief response.



EMERGENCY POWER

Our partner Basin Power Solutions is a full-service mobile power provider. Offerings include both diesel and natural gas industrial-sized generators, ranging from 20 KW to 2,000 KW.



PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL GUARDS

With many buildings already empty or nearly empty as a result of COVID-19 and expected shelter-in-place measures during the hurricane season, this an opportune time for malicious actors to exploit security gaps. We can provide both physical and virtual guard services to protect your business 24/7.



RESTORATION AND RECOVERY RESOURCES

Global Guardian works closely with storm restoration and recovery specialists. If you are looking for support and guidance on selecting a partner we can connect you to our preferred partners.



EXTENSION OF YOUR TEAM

Our 24/7 Operations Center can act as your virtual GSOC to help manage the crisis and check in on your personnel and assets.

To request security or assistance with any of the above services, contact our 24/7 Operations Center by emailing us at operationscenter@globalguardian.com or calling +1 (703)-566-9463.

CONTACT US

Please contact the 24/7 Global Guardian Operations Center at any time with questions or comments on this special report, or for any travel security need.

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