



## Preparing For Hurricane Season

June 13, 2023

The Atlantic Ocean Hurricane season has arrived. This year, NOAA predicts a 40% chance of “near normal” hurricane activity in the Atlantic, a 30% chance of an “above normal” and a 30% chance of a “below normal” hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30. Further predictions suggest there will be 12 to 17 named storms with wind speeds of 39 mph or greater. Of those named storms, 5 to 9 will become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or greater and 1 to 4 will become major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or greater.

Below is a checklist of important measures to take in advance of a high wind event to prevent or mitigate damage from heavy winds. Many of these steps can be taken now to lessen the burden of last-minute efforts when an actual storm is imminent.

<b>Roofs</b>	Inspect your roofs for damage. Determine if additional fasteners or strapping is necessary to secure your roofs.
<b>Drains and Gutters</b>	Clear drains and gutters to allow water to drain away from your buildings.
<b>Rooftop Systems</b>	Ensure that rooftop ventilation and air conditioning units are properly secured.
<b>Air Conditioners</b>	Ensure window air conditioning units are properly secured or brought inside prior to heavy winds.
<b>Trees</b>	If possible, trim back tree limbs and shrubs near buildings.
<b>Window Protection</b>	If tree limbs or shrubs cannot be trimmed, consider boarding windows with 5/8" marine plywood in high exposure areas.
<b>Potential Airborne Items</b>	Move trash cans, tables, chairs, barbecue grills, etc., inside.
<b>Recreation Equipment</b>	Secure outdoor recreation and school equipment such as soccer nets, playground equipment/toys, bleachers, portable basketball hoops, etc.
<b>Storm Drains</b>	Clear storm water drains in areas where flooding is likely.
<b>Vehicles</b>	Determine how and where to store your non-emergency vehicles.
<b>Fuel</b>	Obtain sufficient fuel for emergency response as gas stations may be closed during power outages.

<b>Generators</b>	Test all generators to ensure they remain operational.
<b>Basement Storage</b>	If basements are prone to water penetration, move contents to higher ground and test sump pumps.
<b>Communication Systems</b>	To maintain continuity of essential operations, it's critical to review your backup plan in case of a communication system failure. If cell phones and computer networks are down, determine how emergency response and critical information will be communicated to residents and/or employees. Make sure that employee and vendor contact lists are current and up-to-date.
<b>Response Equipment</b>	Inspect and prepare equipment needed for post-storm clean-up such as personal protective equipment, chainsaws, sump pumps, backhoes, etc.

The MIIA Risk Management Team

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