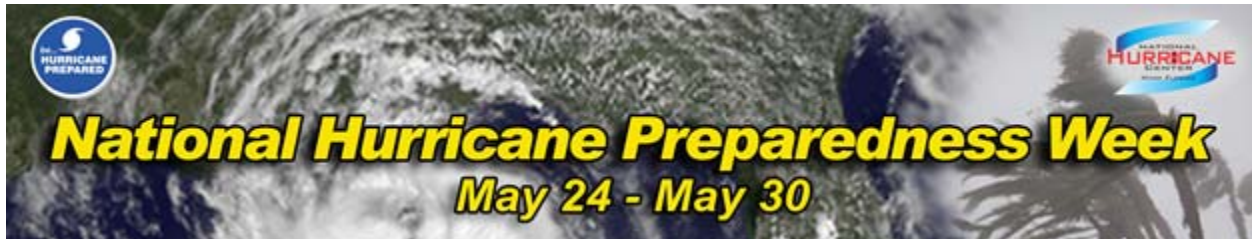




Florida Film, Television, and Entertainment



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

PROTECT YOUR CAST AND CREW & LOWER THE COST OF HURRICANE PRODUCTION INSURANCE

Our office is regularly asked if the cost of production insurance during hurricane season can be lowered.

The answer according to several insurance underwriters is that it is possible! But it requires the production company to create a detailed plan of preparation, evacuation, and recovery.

This guide has been created to provide you with an outline to achieve that. Follow these guidelines and submit your detailed plan with your application for production insurance. It should help you qualify for production insurance during Florida's tropical weather season, and possibly see a substantial cost savings as well.

More importantly, it can save lives. Saving lives, protecting property, and mitigating the cost of your windstorm insurance... good reasons to take the time to prepare properly.

YOUR HURRICANE PLAN: June 1st to November 30th

It's imperative to have a plan of ACTION in place if you shoot in Florida from June 1st to November 30th, popularly known as '*hurricane season*'. However, tropical storms can cause destruction and should be given the same cautions.

Production companies should put their hurricane plan in writing not only for your insurance carrier, but so that employees have a clear understanding of how the company will operate before, during and after a storm. Businesses and individuals alike need to identify vulnerabilities ahead of time and take protective measures.

DETAILS OF YOUR HURRICANE PLAN

Your insurance specialist will need the following information from you to present to the underwriters for productions planned during hurricane season.

➤ **Production information and dates**

- Describe the type of production / provide synopsis
- List dates of pre-production, production, and/or post for Florida
- List locations, and any pre-existing preparedness plans, for:
 - Soundstages
 - Production offices
 - Filming locations

➤ **Evacuation Plans**

- Are your offices, stages, locations, or cast or crew accommodations in a mandatory evacuation zone? To determine if you are in an evacuation zone visit the link below and check the interactive map.
<http://www.miamidade.gov/fire/evacuation-zones.asp>
- **List your evacuation and protection plans:**
 - **Cast and Crew:** Determine where they will go.
 - **Local:** Will probably have personal hurricane plans, but will require some time to implement them.
 - **Non-local:** Production should make plans to shelter them in a safe place, or to relocate them away from the hurricane. Contact hotels in expected safe areas in advance, as they will book up quickly before a storm!
- **Equipment and Vehicles:** Your plan should show how you will keep them safe from wind and flood hazards. A plan to return equipment before a storm's impact will suffice. Watertight storage in a wind-safe structure should be considered. Supply addresses and phone numbers of equipment rental houses and vendors you are using.
- **Locations:** Create a plan to secure your locations, production offices and soundstages. Determine alternates for these facilities in the event any are damaged by the storm.
- **EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST:**
 - Assemble emergency contact information for all cast and crew.
 - Create a plan to contact them after the hurricane has passed.

➤ **After-Storm Contingency Plan**

Your insurance carrier wants to know you have a plan in case you are impacted by a hurricane: Are there shooting locations that could be non-filmable after a hurricane? Are there suitable alternate locations in the area? List them.

- If your production offices are not usable, have you found and are you prepared to move to another site?
 - Have you access to generators if power is not completely available?
 - Of major equipment used, have you arranged for access to replacements for storm-damaged equipment?
- **Designate Hurricane Plan Coordinator & Staff**
- Determine and provide the member of the production team who will be responsible for activating the hurricane plan monitoring the weather advisories
 - Name department heads who will assist in implementing the plan, and who they will be supervising.
- **Disaster Kits**
- Information about creating a disaster kit should be provided to all cast and crew. Disaster kits should include at a minimum, 3 days of supplies such as cash, fuel, first aid and medicines, food and water, flashlights and spare batteries, clothing and bedding. The production should consider providing some of these for cast or crew members who might not have the time to assemble them.

WATCH VS. WARNING: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

- **A HURRICANE WATCH** issued for your part of the coast indicates the strong possibility that you will experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your production's disaster plan (if not sooner), and protective measures should be initiated, especially those that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.
- **A HURRICANE WARNING** issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, your production should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be.

WHAT TO DO...

IF A HURRICANE WATCH IS DECLARED:

- **Monitor weather advisories continuously.** Major advisories are issued by the National Hurricane Center at 5 AM and 11 AM, and 5PM and 11 PM, with supplemental advisories as needed.
- NOTE: Latest tropical weather updates are available at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. (National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center website.)
- Fuel all vehicles.
- Re-check evacuation plans.
- Re-check disaster kits.
- Prepare to secure locations, soundstages, production offices, equipment and vehicles.
- Prepare to evacuate your cast and crew.
 - Prepare in advance travel and safe-area hotels. Hotels sell out in advance of a major storm. **So book early.**
 - Travel -- Pre-book flights, charter a bus, or book other means to safely move your cast and crew out of harm's way.
 - NOTE: Roadways often become jammed and evacuation can take many, many more hours than expected. Expect those delays when planning your evacuation.
 - Hotels – Book rooms in advance out of the projected path of the storm. A storm's hurricane impact can be felt for a hundred miles or more after landfall.
- Contact the local film commission for official emergency announcements, and to let them know your status. Location filming permits will be withdrawn before a storm's impact.
- Make sure all department heads are ready to implement your plan.

IF A HURRICANE WARNING IS DECLARED:

- Continue to monitor weather advisories and official emergency announcements.
- **IMPLEMENT YOUR PLAN!**
 - Secure locations, production offices, soundstages, equipment and vehicles against wind and flood damage (your plan should list what's needed to do this.)
 - Return equipment and vehicles where possible to the vendor.
 - Evacuate cast and crew to pre-designated safe shelter or away from the hurricane affected area.
 - Distribute disaster kits to those who need them.
 - Make sure the hurricane plan coordinator and department heads have the latest emergency contact lists, and are ready to implement the post-storm communications plan.
 - Contact the local film commission for official emergency notices.

RECOVERY FROM THE STORM:

- Implement your contingencies as necessary (as detailed in your hurricane preparedness plan).
- Re-establish contact with all cast and crew.

- Assess damage, if any, to locations, production offices, soundstages, equipment and vehicles.
- Assess any safety issues related to these facilities.
- Begin clean-up of any damage to your facilities.
- Implement contingency plans for specific alternate locations, offices, soundstages etc.
- Contact local film commission for official announcements and to resume obtaining film permits.
- **NOTE:** Police, fire and emergency personnel are often unavailable to assist filming for extended periods after a hurricane's impact.

SAFETY AFTER THE STORM:

- **DRIVING:** Car accidents are the main cause of injury after a hurricane; treat all intersections like a 4-way stop, because traffic lights will often be out of service. Combine your trips and drive only if it's absolutely necessary.
- **ELECTRICAL DANGERS:** Stay away from all downed utility lines and do not drive over them. Do not wade in floodwaters after a storm.
- **LIMIT PHONE CALLS:** Limit your phone calls to necessary ones and only call 911 for life threatening emergencies. Too often emergency calls can't get through because too many people have tied up the few available phone lines or still-working cell towers.

HURRICANE FACTS

What You Should Know About Tropical Weather...

What is a Hurricane? A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, which is a generic term for a low- pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. The cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

- **Tropical Depression**
An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds* of 38 mph (33 kt**) or less.
- **Tropical Storm**
An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph (34-63 kt).
- **Hurricane**
An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 kt) or higher.

During hurricane season, which runs from June 1st to November 30th, conditions in the tropics become optimal for the development of hurricanes. Each year, an average of 10 tropical storms, develop in the tropics. Of these, 6 are likely to become hurricanes. While many of these storms do not affect the U.S.

coastline, the threat of a major impact from a hurricane is still a real concern. In an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the U.S. coastline.

In order to give you a better idea of the months of the year which historically have had the most hurricanes, please see the chart below.

HISTORICAL CHART OF HURRICANES by Month (1900-2000)

Table 8. Tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico by month of origin, [updated from Neumann et al. (1999)], and for hurricanes striking the U.S. mainland 1900-2000 [updated from Hebert et al. (1997)].

MONTH	1944-2000 TROPICAL STORMS AND HURRICANES		1944-2000 HURRICANES		1900-2000 U.S. HURRICANES	
	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average
JANUARY-APRIL	3	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.00
MAY	8	0.1	2	*	0	0.00
JUNE	31	0.5	11	0.2	11	0.11
JULY	50	0.9	22	0.4	18	0.18
AUGUST	151	2.6	95	1.6	42	0.42
SEPTEMBER	198	3.5	129	2.3	65	0.64
OCTOBER	100	1.8	60	1.1	25	0.25
NOVEMBER	26	0.5	16	0.3	4	0.04
DECEMBER	4	0.1	2	*	0	0.00
YEAR	571	10.0	337	5.9	165	1.63

¹ Includes subtropical storms after 1967. See Neumann et al. (1999) for details.
* Less than 0.05.

TROPICAL WEATHER CATEGORIES

The severity of hurricanes and the potential damage they can cause are classified in different categories of severity according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

Category 1: Winds 74-95mph - Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

Category 2: Winds 96-110mph - Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

Category 3: Winds 111-129 mph - Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes

Category 4: Winds 131-156 mph – Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Category 5: Winds greater than 156 mph - Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

For more information on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, go to:

www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshs.shtml

NOTE: Lower category storms can sometimes inflict greater damage than higher category storms, depending on where they strike and the particular hazards they bring. In fact, tropical storms can also produce significant damage and loss of life, due mainly to flooding, tornadoes, downed power lines and lightning.

- **Sustained winds** -- A 1-minute average wind measured at about 33 ft. (10 meters) above the surface.
- 1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour or 1.15 statute miles per hour. Abbreviated as "kt".

HURRICANE LINKS YOU NEED TO KNOW!

- Accuweather: www.accuweather.com
- Central Florida Hurricane Center: www.flhurricane.com
- CNN Weather News: www.CNN.com
- Insuring Florida: www.insuringflorida.org
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- The Weather Channel: www.weather.com
- Weather Underground: www.weatherunderground.com
- CompuWeather: www.Compuweather.com

Ways to Stay Informed

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

The National Weather Service (NWS) continuously broadcasts warning, watches, forecasts and non-weather related hazard information on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR). The average range of the 1000+ NWR transmitters is 40 miles, depending on topography. For the best performing NWR receivers, NWS suggests you look at devices certified to Public Alert™ standards.

These radios meet specific technical standards and come with many features such as Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME), a battery backup, both audio and visual alarms, selective programming for the types of hazards you want to be warned for,



and the ability to activate external alarm devices for people with disabilities. Similar to a smoke detector, an NWR can wake you up in the middle of the night to alert you of a dangerous situation.

Current Storm Information

- National Weather Service: www.weather.gov
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- Central Pacific Hurricane Center: www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc

Historical Storm Information

- National Climatic Data Center: www.ncdc.noaa.gov
- NOAA Coastal Services Center: www.csc.noaa.gov

Emergency/Preparedness Information

- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
- FEMA: www.fema.gov

Mobile NHC and NWS Information

- Mobile NHC website in basic HTML: www.nhc.noaa.gov/mobile
- Mobile NWS website for smartphones: mobile.weather.gov
- Mobile NWS website in basic HTML: cell.weather.gov

Other Information

- Audio Podcasts: www.nhc.noaa.gov/audio/index.shtml
- Geographic Information System Data: www.nhc.noaa.gov/gis/
- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards: www.weather.gov/nwr
- Hurricane Tracking Charts: www.weather.gov/os/hurricane/

Facebook

- NHC Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/US.NOAA.NationalHurricaneCenter.gov
- CPHC/ NWS Honolulu Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Honolulu.gov

Twitter

- Atlantic: [@NHC_Atlantic](https://twitter.com/NHC_Atlantic)
- Eastern North Pacific: [@NHC_Pacific](https://twitter.com/NHC_Pacific)
- Central Pacific: [@NWSHonolulu](https://twitter.com/NWSHonolulu)
- Storm Surge: [@NHC_Surge](https://twitter.com/NHC_Surge)

What to Listen For

- **HURRICANE WATCH:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. During a Watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuation in case warnings are issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.
- **TROPICAL STORM WATCH:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. During a Watch, prepare your home and review your plan for evacuations in case warnings are issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

- **HURRICANE WARNING:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. The warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.
- **TROPICAL STORM WARNING:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected somewhere within the specified area within 36 hours in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.
- **EXTREME WIND WARNING:** Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are expected to begin within an hour. Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure. Additional Watches and Warnings are issued to provide detailed information on specific threats such as floods and tornadoes. Local National Weather Service offices issue Flash Flood/Flood Watches and Warnings as well as Tornado Warnings.

National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center Products

PUBLIC ADVISORIES offer critical hurricane watch, warning and forecast information.

FORECASTS/ADVISORIES provide detailed hurricane track and wind field information

PROBABILITIES OF HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM CONDITIONS offer locally specific chances of experiencing tropical storm, strong tropical storm and hurricane force winds out to 5 days to better know if one will be impacted and when these conditions may occur.

Local National Weather Service Office Products

HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENTS give greater detail on how the storm will impact your area.

NON-PRECIPITATION WEATHER PRODUCTS provide High Wind Watches and Warnings for inland areas that could experience strong winds.

Use all of the above information to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions to take. Listen to recommendations of local officials on TV, radio and other media and to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for the latest tropical cyclone information.

For the latest updates and Hurricane information click on the link below:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

IATSE Local 477 Clarification of Hurricane Policy

The following rules are in effect for impending hurricanes or lightning strikes:

I.A.T.S.E 477 Hurricane Policy

1) Hurricane Watch - A watch is issued when hurricane conditions can be expected within 36 hours. This is the time for production to begin securing sets and property (especially boats), and to begin the evacuation of barrier islands. Local 477 members can be requested to assist in such preparation. Production should begin considering cessation of filming and release of employees, particularly “nearby” hires.

2) Hurricane Warning - A warning is issued when sustained wind of 74 miles per hour are expected within 24 hours. Production should have completed hurricane preparation by this time and will begin evacuation. Production shall cease upon the announcement of a hurricane warning in the respective area, and Local 477 members shall be released during Hurricane Warning periods.

I.A.T.S.E 477 Lightning Policy

1) National Lightning Safety Institute (NLSI) recommends the suspension of outdoor activities if lightning is within a six mile range, and recommends remaining in shelter thirty minutes after lightning activity has passed. Lightning range can be detected via commercially available detectors, or calculated by the five second rule, i.e.; sound travels one mile in five seconds. If the difference between lightning strike and thunder associated with is 15 seconds, the strike is approximately 3 miles away. NLSI states that if you can see lightning and hear the thunder associated with the activity, lightning is within a six to eight mile range. Indeed, lightning strike can range six to eight miles.

2) IATSE 477’s policy towards lightning activity:

- a) If lightning is seen and thunder heard, all human occupied lifts shall be lowered to the ground and unmanned. Unmanned lifts must be secured and all personnel will be required to remain at a safe distance.
- b) If lightning is seen and thunder heard, production shall direct all but essential staff to shelter.
- c) If lightning activity is within a six mile range, all outdoor production activity shall cease, and employees shall be sheltered until thirty minutes after the last lightning activity.