

# Business Continuity Management

## Preparing for the 2020 Hurricane Season in the COVID-19 Era.

The upcoming hurricane season presents significant risks to organizations located in hurricane prone areas with wind, storm, and flood perils that can potentially cause disruption or damage to operations, assets, supply chain, customer service, facilities and, by extension, revenue streams. Researchers have found that economic damage caused by hurricanes is doubling every 10 to 15 years in the U.S. Therefore, it is crucial to have viable hurricane plans in place, prepared response teams ready, and pre-staged resources for response and recovery operations.

In addition to risks associated with the hurricane season, the Coronavirus pandemic presents additional challenges and has already caused health, safety, and economic damage across the globe, with the United States leading in number of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

The ongoing pandemic introduces an entirely new slate of challenges and therefore requires an increased focus on:



**Life safety by knowing your added health and safety risks**



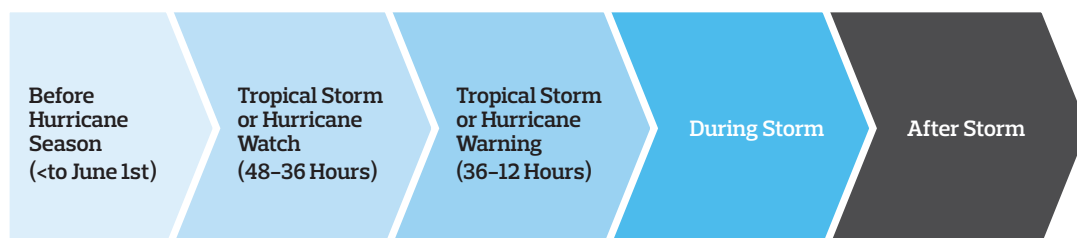
**Life sustainment and making informed decisions and protection plans**



**Workforce protection**

More than ever, organizations must commit to sustaining their operations by having clear, actionable plans in place – before a hurricane event and incorporating Coronavirus health safety protocols that can help the organization protect employees, operations, minimize property damage, and drive operational resiliency to help your organization recover as quickly and as safely as possible.

An effective hurricane preparedness and response plan should include critical action steps addressing protective and health safety activities before, during, and after a storm. Potential planning issues and activities should be captured and displayed for each planning category. These actions can include:



## We're here to empower results

Contact an Aon Business Continuity Management expert for more information on how you can prepare an effective hurricane planning and response plan to drive operational resiliency in your organization.

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### Before the storm, plan for:

- ▶ Loss of communications
- ▶ Management and staff who need to evacuate, relocate or shelter in place
- ▶ Loss of utilities for extended periods
- ▶ Safeguarding of key documents, ensure redundancy in paper and electronic information
- ▶ Emergency supplies (e.g., face coverings and other personal protective equipment, sand bags, pumps, generators, and storm barriers) and physical security of facility
- ▶ Reminders to staff on COVID-19 health safety protocols during sheltering in place or evacuations
- ▶ Communication with critical supply chain partners on needed supplies, products, and services during and after hurricane

### During the storm, ensure capabilities for, or availability of:

- ▶ Adequate staff, operational, and health protection supplies
- ▶ Transportation vehicles and fuel
- ▶ Loss of IT and critical documents
- ▶ Communication with staff, suppliers and clients, as warranted

### After the storm, prepare for:

- ▶ Damage assessment and resource allocation
- ▶ Self-quarantine of staff upon return from evacuation
- ▶ Health screening employees upon returning to the work site
- ▶ Incorporate health safety protocols (e.g., face covering, social distancing, etc.) during site clean up
- ▶ Claim preparation and advocacy
- ▶ Restoration and recovery of facilities, supply chain and operations
- ▶ Post-incident review and plan revision

## Business Continuity Innovations

Aon's Business Continuity Management offerings include the review, analysis and development of emergency preparedness and response plans, the first tactical step in a business continuity plan.

Our strength lies in the development of emergency preparedness and response plans that are designed to address general and specific emergencies that may impact your operations. Our certified business continuity planning consultants will take you beyond plans that look good on paper – we will help you develop plans that work.

## Designing Solutions/Aon Continuity Blueprint™

Through structured engagements, we can be there, assisting you with your event response activities. Our methodology is a unique and proprietary process that relies on the effective use of flowcharts and other supportive graphics to replace the need for traditional,

unwieldy, text-based documents. It is a flexible approach that is designed to incorporate any existing or previous response efforts.

The **Continuity Blueprint™** methodology reduces deployment and activation time when compared to other planning methodologies. This allows users of the plan to implement response procedures, by department using pre-determined response actions.

Our knowledge of COVID-related issues coupled with business continuity processes and services can significantly reduce the staff time necessary to develop and maintain response and recovery plans compared to traditional planning approaches.

Because senior management participation is important to the success of any planning model, we tailor our services to support the strategic objectives and values of your organization. The final work product becomes a roadmap identifying “critical path” actions, responsibilities and benchmarks necessary to prepare and recover from the effects of a hurricane.

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