



LUCELEC HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS: SAFETY, PLANNING, AND BUSINESS'S CONTINUITY

May 15th 2025

OVERVIEW

- What is a hurricane?
- Why hurricane preparedness matters

TOPICS COVERED

- Safety before, during, and after a Hurricane
- Evacuation and Communication Plans
- Emergency Supplies/Bag
- Business Continuity Planning



WHAT IS A HURRICANE

- A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters.
- It is a rotating low-pressure weather system with organized thunderstorms but no fronts.
- Classification based on wind speeds:
 - Tropical Depression: Winds < 39 mph
 - Tropical Storm: Winds 39–73 mph
 - Hurricane: Winds ≥ 74 mph
 - Category 1: 74-95 mph
 - Category 2: 96-110 mph
 - Category 3: 111-129 mph
 - Category 4: 130-156 mph
 - Category 5: Over 157 mph



WHY PREPARING MATTERS



1. Protects Lives and Reduces Injuries

Early preparation—like evacuating on time, securing your home, and having emergency supplies—can prevent fatalities and serious injuries during high winds, flooding, and storm surge.



2. Minimizes Property and Infrastructure Damage

Taking steps like boarding up windows, reinforcing roofs, and protecting electrical systems helps reduce damage to homes, businesses, and public utilities, saving money and speeding up recovery.



3. Ensures Faster Recovery and Continuity

Prepared individuals and businesses bounce back more quickly. With backup plans, communication strategies, and stocked resources, recovery begins immediately after the hurricane passes.

BEFORE

HURRICANE

STAY INFORMED

Monitor weather alerts from trusted sources like MET or local authorities

PROTECT PROPERTY

Board up windows, clear gutters, and secure outdoor items

PLAN AHEAD

Know your evacuation route and prepare emergency kits

CHECK DOCUMENTS

Review any insurance coverage; store documents safely and have digital copies

DURING

HURRICANE

STAY INDOORS

Remain in a safe interior room away from windows and other potential Hazards

AVOID FLOODS

Do not walk or drive through flooded areas that can leave you trapped

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

Follow updates via radio or official apps. Listen to authorize

CONTACTS

Keep your phone nearby and off silent mode with alerts easily heard

AFTER

HURRICANE

ALL CLEAR

Do not return home/business until authorities declare it safe

WATCH FOR HAZARDS

Dangers such as downed powerlines, gas leaks, and structural damage

RECORD DAMAGE

Take photos for assessment claims that government / insurer will need after storm

WATER WARNING

Follow local advisories on water safety and take precautions to avoid water born illnesses

EVACUATION PLANS



01

Know Your Zone

Identify if you are in a vulnerable area

02

Plan Routes Ahead

Pre-select multiple routes to safer areas. Mark off these routes.

03

Transportation Plan

Arrange transport for all Employees/ family members



EVACUATION PLANS

04

Shelter Plan

Locate nearest hurricane shelters

05

Practice Drills

Regular family/business evacuation drills



Hurricane Preparedness Checklist



- Evacuation Plan
- Medications and Medical Supplies
 - Two Week Supply
- Cash
- Flashlight – Batteries
- Phone and Portable Chargers
- Important Documents:
 - Birth Certificates
 - Insurance Cards
 - Social Security Cards
 - Bank/Credit Card Numbers
 - Wills
 - House Inventory Photos
 - Titles (cars, boats, etc.)
 - Vet/Microchip Records for Pets
- Battery-powered Weather Radio
- Phone List:
 - Doctors
 - Insurance
 - Electric, Gas, and Water Companies
 - Family/Friends/Neighbors
 - Landlord or Property Manager
 - Bank or Credit Union



- Keep Your Vehicle filled with Gas
- Emergency Kit:
 - Nonperishable Food and Water (1 gallon per person per day) for 7 days
 - Non-electric Can Opener
 - Cooler
 - First Aid Kit
 - Pet Supplies – Pet Food and Water, Leash and Collar, Bowls, Medications, Carrier/Cage
 - Sleeping Bags and Pillows
 - Tool Box/Rope
 - Plastic Sheeting and duct tape
 - Work Gloves
 - Fire Extinguisher
 - Cleaning Supplies
 - Clothing
 - Whistle
 - Special Needs Items for Infants/ Small Children or Elderly/Disabled
- COVID-19 Supplies
 - Face Masks
 - Disinfectant Wipes
 - Hand Sanitizer



COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Create an emergency contact list that includes all employees and family members of employees

Have a **COMMUNICATION CHAIN** that will assign roles and confirm everyone will be contacted.

Have a contact that is outside of the **VULNERABLE ZONE**, to make sure that communication is possible even when the affected zone has no chance at communication

Use technology wisely: Enable location sharing, use text instead of calling to ensure correct information, and rely on groups creating apps.



EMERGENCY BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN



BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

RISK ASSESSMENT

Systematically evaluate threats to infrastructure, operations, and personnel to ensure continuity, rapid recovery, and public safety before, during and after emergencies.

Leverage Technology – Utilize drones, GIS mapping, and AI for better disaster assessment and response.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Include remote work policies, backups, chain of command, secondary operations centers, officer in command and roles of the staff.

Enhance Training and Drills – Conduct more frequent simulation exercises for responders and communities.

DATA PROTECTION

Protecting critical business data is essential during emergencies. If possible, have off-site backups and cloud storage solutions to ensure that vital records, customer information, and operational data remain accessible

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION

Designate spokespersons and ensure staff safety. Allowing for redundancies is important to maintain clear communication, support decision-making, and ensure operations continue smoothly even if key personnel are unavailable

RECOVERY PLANS

Should include clear steps for reopening, insurance coverage checks, and temporary relocation if needed, along with restoring critical systems, assessing structural safety, and communicating timelines to employees and stakeholders

Business Preparedness Tools

- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Insurance Coverage Review: Flood, wind, business interruption
- Supplier Coordination: Confirm emergency contacts and alternative suppliers
- Employee Training: Annual hurricane safety and continuity training (tabletop and field training exercises)

RESOURCES

1. National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) Website:

<https://www.nemo.gov.lc>

2. St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (SLCCIA)

<https://www.stluciachamber.org>

3. Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

<https://www.cdema.org>

4. The St. Lucia Small Business Development Centre (SBDCB)

<https://www.sbdcbstlucia.org>

5. The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)

<https://www.ccrif.org>

RESOURCES

6. Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRI)

<https://www.drii.org>

7. OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States)

<https://www.oecs.org>

8. World Bank - Disaster Risk Management

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disasterriskmanagement>

9. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

<https://www.caribank.org>

10. The Caribbean Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (CDRRC)

<https://www.cdrrc.org>



THANK YOU

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