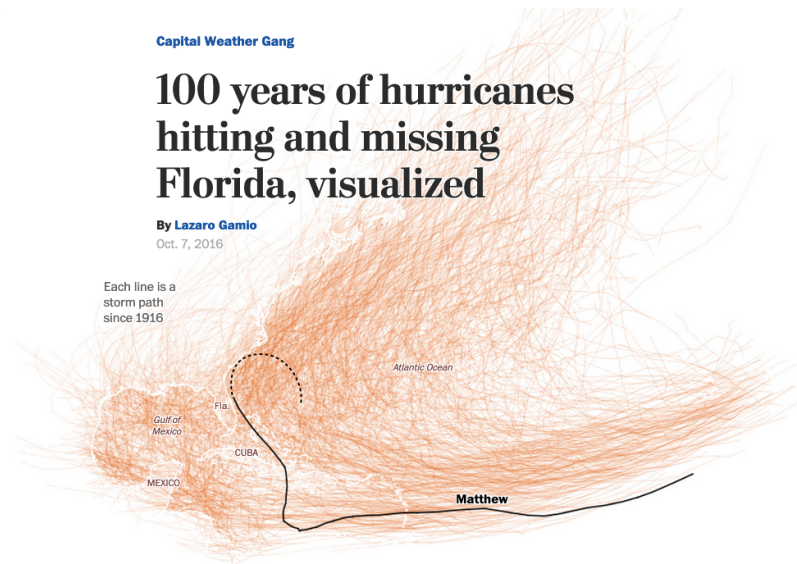


Whitney Laboratory For Marine Bioscience

Hurricane Preparedness Plan

2024



Tropical/Hurricane Terminology

Tropical Depression

A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds (one-minute average) of 38 mph (33 knots) or less

Tropical Storm

A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

Hurricane

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater (64 knots or greater).

Major Hurricane

A hurricane that is classified as Category 3 or higher.

Evacuation

An evacuation order means that life-threatening conditions are possible in our area. This should be taken seriously. You will not be ordered to evacuate unless there is a real threat to your well-being, or you might become stranded where help could not reach you. When you are told to evacuate, do so immediately. When weather conditions become severe, Fire Rescue and Law Enforcement personnel cannot respond until conditions improve. You don't want to be on your own until the storm passes. Your safety, and the safety of others, depends on following instructions.

Evacuation route for the Whitney Lab – North on SR-A1A to Crescent Beach, turn West on SR-206, proceed across Crescent Beach Bridge to US-1, proceed to I-95 or points West.

On or before June 1st

1. The Maintenance Supervisor will have a supply of polyethylene sheeting in storage.
2. The diesel generator should be checked and/or serviced.
3. The Maintenance Supervisor should ensure that the diesel tank in the emergency generator is full.
4. Each Laboratory should have at least one operational flashlight at all times.
5. Each Laboratory should verify that they have sufficient air stones and tubing for their animals.
6. The Director will call a meeting to the leadership team
7. Any lab personnel who plan to be away during the summer (for any amount of time) and who wish to leave a car at the lab should leave a set of keys with the maintenance shop.
8. Locating sites in Gainesville where critical supplies (including fish and other animals) could be transferred will be coordinated by the Operations Manager. The Sea Turtle Coordinator will make arrangements for the sea turtles.

When a Tropical Storm Watch is issued for the area.

1. All computer data files etc. should be backed up onto network storage devices.
2. Labs should consider duplicating stocks of plasmids etc. for transportation to Gainesville.
3. The Maintenance Supervisor will ensure that all battery operated drills and other relevant equipment are fully charged and operational.

When a Hurricane Watch is issued for the area.

1. The Maintenance Supervisor will identify a team to assist with securing the Laboratory.
2. When deemed necessary plywood and necessary equipment and supplies will be brought out of storage. Plywood sheets should be positioned close to their desired location. **The Maintenance Supervisor will solicit help from all able-bodied personnel for this task.**
3. Each Laboratory is responsible for its own equipment and animals.
 - a. All water-sensitive chemicals should be raised at least 3 feet off the floor.
 - b. Solvent cabinets should be locked.
 - c. Bring in outdoor aquaria, or fill them with sufficient water to secure them in place.
 - d. Bring all portable outdoor equipment and supplies indoors.
 - e. All Labs with animals in aquaria will have air stones and tubing in place in all tanks in case of water shut off. It would be helpful to consolidate animals so as to minimize the number of tanks in operation.
4. Tanks without animals will have their water turned off.
5. The Maintenance Supervisor will run the diesel generator to ensure its smooth operation.
6. The Maintenance Supervisor will make arrangements for a diesel refill before, and as soon as possible after, the onset of the storm.
7. If a storm is deemed substantial supplies in -80 and -20 degree freezers in the research lab will be moved to ensure that at least one of each type has space should it need to be relocated to the CMS.

When a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning is issued.

1. **ALL REGULAR LABORATORY ACTIVITIES WILL CEASE IMMEDIATELY. That means everyone!**
2. The Director will ensure that all Laboratory personnel are assisting with hurricane preparations.
3. The Maintenance Supervisor will activate the team to secure the buildings.
4. Each Laboratory will unplug all non-essential electronic equipment, move it at least 3 feet above the floor, and cover it with plastic.
5. All valuable documents should be moved at least 3 feet off the ground and secured in plastic boxes or file cabinets (except bottom drawers).
6. Disconnect all computers from their network cables and power sources. Turn off all UPSs to prevent damage to batteries in case of a prolonged outage, and raise them off the ground.
7. All sensitive equipment will be moved into the top floor of the Center for Marine Studies.
8. All portable data storage devices should be moved to top floor of Center for Marine Studies.
9. Students will notify parents as to their location.

10. **Once the lab is boarded up, all personnel must leave the building. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
11. Flood planks will be installed on the exterior entrances to the main lab building.
12. The Maintenance Supervisor will organize the removal of all Lab vehicles, including the boats, to higher ground. St. Johns County Fair Grounds is willing to store vehicles. ***No personnel should leave a car at the lab at any time without a key for emergency removal.***

NOTES:

1. Lab personnel should not swim or surf in the vicinity of the Laboratory once a warning has been posted.
2. Everyone should be aware that once a Tropical Storm warning is posted (the first level alert), access to the Laboratory by the authorities may be restricted, simply by closing various bridges (Palm Coast, SR 100 etc.). Since this could happen overnight, you are advised not to leave preparations until “tomorrow” – you may not be able to get into the Lab “tomorrow”. Hence, if a major storm is threatening, you would be advised to make preparations before leaving the Laboratory that day.
3. Access to the Laboratory after an evacuation will be controlled by local authorities (i.e. Flagler and St. Johns County Emergency Services). The Maintenance Supervisor, Operations Manager, and the Director will be assigned Emergency Management passes to permit them to return as soon as it is safe. Others will be allowed to return when the general evacuation order has been lifted.

Contact Info:

Essential Personal Contact Information

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