

U.S. Embassy Nassau
Hurricane Preparedness
Town Hall Meeting
June 2012



Agenda

- 2012 Hurricane Forecast – what does it mean?
- What do I do in the event of a hurricane?
 - Who does what?
 - Where will I go?
 - Shelter vs. evacuation – what is the process?
 - Communication with Embassy before, during, and after hurricane?
 - Lessons from Hurricane Irene
- Preparedness – what can I do before a storm hits?
 - Prepare my things: Hurricane kits, ready cash, and grab bags
 - Prepare the Embassy: Update information with Management
 - Prepare my house: Gas for generator, hurricane shutters, trim trees, clean my yard
 - Prepare my family: Make an emergency plan (meeting place, etc)



2012 Atlantic Forecast

NOAA	Average Activity (1981 - 2010)	2012 Projection
Named Storms	12	9 to 15
Hurricanes	6	4 to 8
Major Hurricanes (Category 3,4,5)	3	1 to 3

Tropical Depression—A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

Tropical Storm— A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

Hurricane—A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

Major Hurricane—A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (96 knots) or higher, corresponding to a Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.



Hurricane Categories

Category	Winds (MPH)	Storm Surge (ft)	Damage
1	74-95	4'-5'	Minimal
2	96-110	6'-8'	Moderate
3	111-130	9'-12'	Extensive
4	131-155	13'-18'	Extreme
5	>155	>18'	Catastrophic



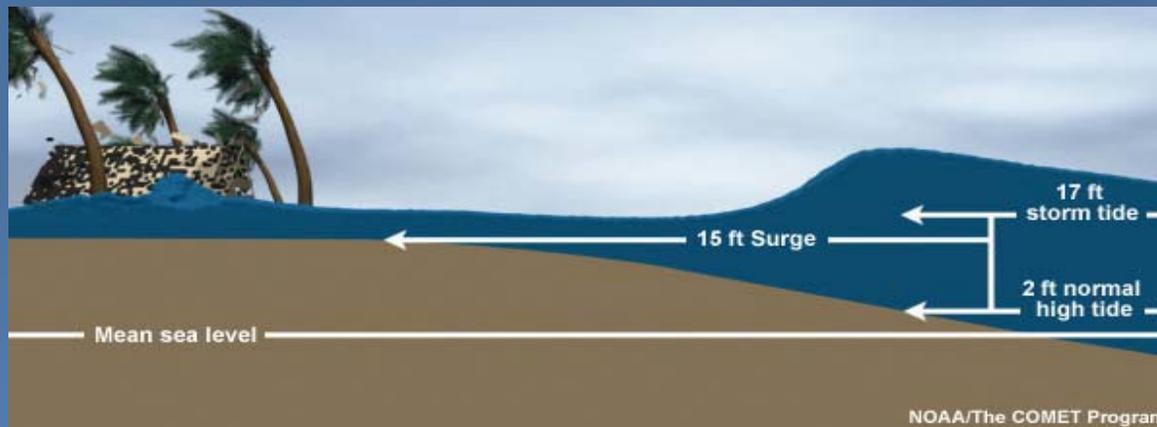
Embassy Hurricane Plan 2012

Cat	Wind speed	Storm Surge	Ordered Departure	Authorized Departure	Relocation to Shelter
1	74-95	4'-5'			Relocation to Shelter
2	96-110	6'-8'		Authorized Departure	Relocation to Shelter
3	111-130	9'-12'		Authorized Departure	Relocation to Shelter
4	131-155	13'-18'	Ordered Departure		
5	>155	>18'	Ordered Departure		



Storm Surge

STORM SURGE is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coastline. More intense and larger hurricanes produce higher surge. In addition, shallower offshore waters contribute to higher storm surge inundation. Storm surge is by far the greatest threat to life and property along the immediate coast.



Who Does What?

- Chief of Mission (John Dinkelman)

- Decides when to request authorized/ordered departure from State Department
- Authorizes supervisors to relocate staff to shelters
- Gives the “all clear” signal after a threat has passed
- Oversees relationship with host country government
- Daily communication with Embassy community

- Deputy Chief of Mission (John Armstrong)

- Oversees the Hurricane Action Committee
- Coordinates activity among various agencies/offices
- Ensures each agency has accounted for personnel
- Individual cases



Who Does What?

- MGMT Section (Cheryl Moore, Nazima Razick, Kathy Hallett)
 - Logistics for evacuation (orders – be sure to register)
 - Home preparation (GSO)
- Consular Section (Joanna Weinz)
 - Assist American citizens, work with wardens
- Military/Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Logistics, Information (ODC)
 - Flight/Sea Support (OPBAT)
 - Preclearance (CBP)
- MDRO (Sally Sternal)
 - Information hub for Embassy (NEMA, OFDA, etc)



Where Will You Go?

Embassy Nassau Evacuation Points

State Department Employees
State Department Family

Washington, DC
Washington, DC
(or home leave pt)

DEA

Miami

DEA Family

Miami

Coast Guard

Orlando or TBD

Coast Guard Family

Home of Record

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Atlanta

CBP Family

Atlanta

Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC)

Home of Record

FBI

TBD

TSA

TBD

ICE

Miami

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Sheltering in Nassau

- When do I relocate to a shelter?
 - Chief of Mission decides when it is necessary to relocate to shelter (list of available shelters located in your hurricane action plan)
 - If you choose to stay at a hotel, it could not be reimbursed!
 - Colonial Hilton is rated to withstand a hurricane Category 4 and above
- When can I shelter-in-place?
 - DCM, under advice of Hurricane Action Committee, will make determination based on storm surge, proximity to coast and flooding
 - Shelter must be equipped with the following:
 - Hurricane Shutters
 - 5 days of non-perishable food per person
 - 5 gallons of water per person
 - Working generator
 - Must have done a radio check in the past 3 months



Authorized Departure

- Each agency has a particular onward destination in case of evacuation
 - Check with your supervisor for details
 - Information on agency-specific destination located in Hurricane Action Plan
- State Department Employees Only
 - Eligible Family Members can choose to go to DC or to a pre-selected safe haven in the US.
 - If an EFM goes to the US w/o the employee and the employee later evacuates the travel from safe haven to DC (if desired) is covered.
 - Employees must report to Washington DC.
- Each agency at Post is under Chief of Mission authority
 - Evacuation on orders not authorized until approved by U/S Management.
 - May depart on your own without orders, but at your own expense.



Ordered Departure

- Every employee who is not on the drawdown list (Appendix 2) and all family members **must** leave Post and report to their emergency employment station.
- Usually one month in duration, but essential personnel can be brought back on a limited basis after hurricane clears.
- Only when a major hurricane is expected to have catastrophic damage to the island.



Communication with Embassy

- Supervisory Channels: MDRO will update Hurricane Action Committee (HAC) by email on storm progress and events. The section/agency chiefs will update their employees.
- Radios: Keep radios charged and on during a storm for updates.
- Emergency Management System: RSO manages the EMS, alerts will be sent to all Mission employees and eligible family members **by text**. Please keep your information current with Post Management.
- Phone tree: Supervisors may use a phone tree to contact staff before and after an event.
- **If you leave The Bahamas at any point, be sure to notify your supervisor and Embassy RSO/Management Section at NassauOffIsland@state.gov**

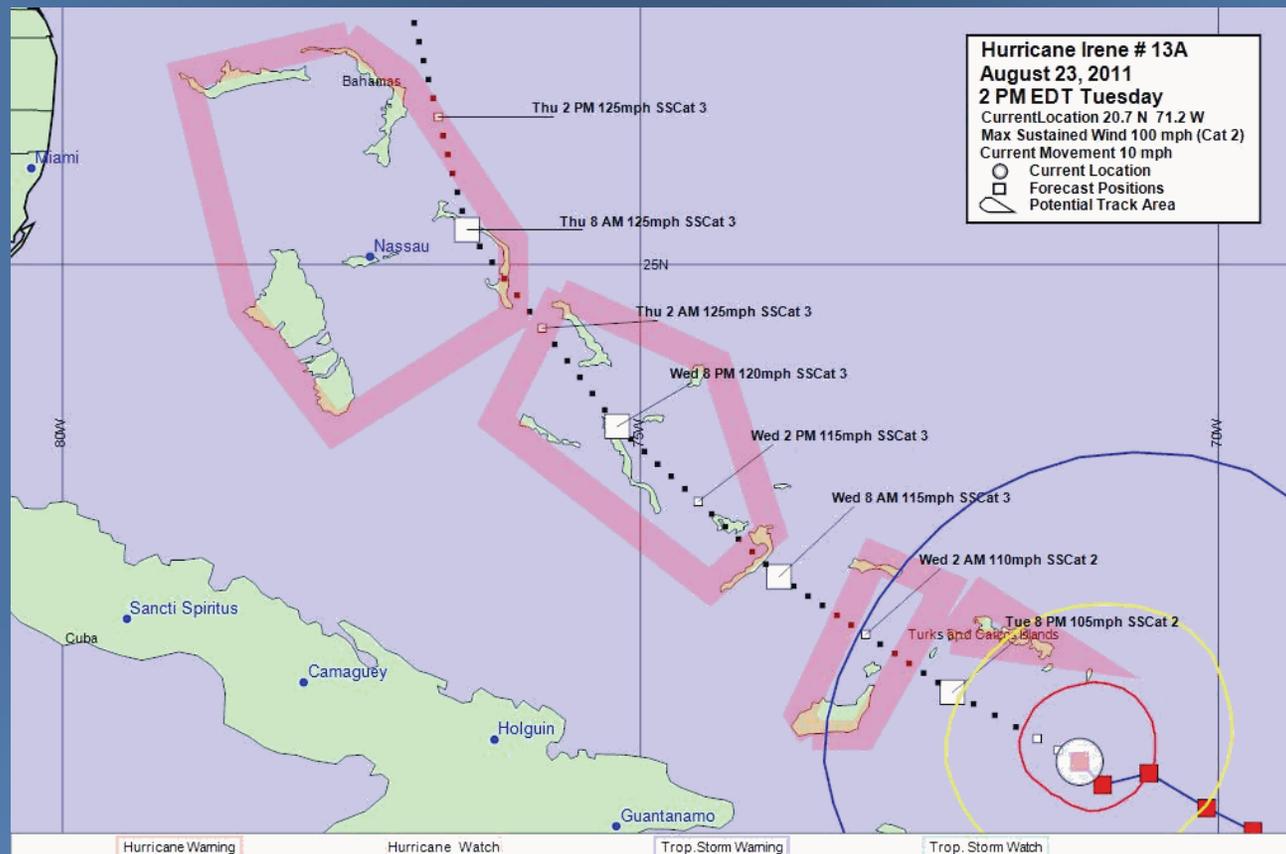


Returning Home

- Contact your supervisor and Management by e-mail and/or by phone (U.S. emergency point of contact).
- Please check e-mail regularly throughout time in U.S.
- Amount of time authorized on per diem will be determined by U/S Management (State Department). Any additional time spent in US will be at personal expense, and must get permission to adjust return tickets.
- Tickets through your agency office.



Hurricane Irene – August 23rd, 2011



Hurricane Irene Evacuation

Hurricane Preparedness:

- Hurricane shutters, cooperation with landlords, manage expectations
- Know your neighbors, establish a buddy system
- Training sessions for those that arrive after town halls

Number of Evacuees – have info up to date with Management:

- Department of State: 32 (2 Employees and 30 EFMs);
- CBP: 69 (19 Employees and 50 EFMs);
- DEA: 80 (21 Employees and 59 EFMs);
- Coast Guard: 1 EFM; and,
- ODC: 5 (1 Employee and 4 EFMs)

Communicate with Supervisors – they get updates from MDRO

- MDRO will communicate to Hurricane Action Committee
- MGMT will send Mission-wide messages with key information

Refine our trip wires: Hurricanes are unpredictable, even to the experts



A satellite image of a hurricane, showing a distinct eye and spiral cloud bands over a dark blue ocean. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**GENERAL SERVICES
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS
2012**

U.S. EMBASSY NASSAU

Cheryl Moore, MGMT Officer

Nazima Razick, SGSO

Kathy Hallett, AGSO

Nassauhousing@state.gov

Before-During-After the Storm

- Facilitates communication between landlord and occupant

- Generators
- Gas Cans

**GSO
Housing**

**GSO
Warehouse**

Occupant

Landlord

- Prepare residence
- Prepare Family

- Installs hurricane shutters/plywood
- Remove debris
- Repair residence

General Service Office Responsibilities

1. Provide all residences with generators and gas cans.
2. Provide tutorial sessions on how to operate the generator
3. Communicate with landlords and occupant about their responsibilities
4. Provide assistance when landlords fail to comply with lease agreement



Occupant Responsibilities

1. Create a family emergency plan; medicines, evacuation plan, and pets.
2. Should already have renter's insurance; flood/water damage.
3. A gallon of water per day per family member.-
STOCK UP!
4. Food-Non-perishable
5. Phone/Radio/Candles and Batteries



Occupant Responsibilities cont.

6. Keep \$200 in cash handy; do not let fuel in your POV go below half a tank; know how to shut off your utilities if necessary; have required meds on hand.
7. Secure or store objects that can blow away, garbage cans, planters, grills, and lawn furniture.
8. Clean and disinfect bathtubs and fill with water. Emergency water source for washing, and flushing of toilets after the storm.



Occupant and GSO

1. Generator

- a. Test your generator.
- b. Purchase gas.
- c. Location for generator, what it powers and where to connect.

2. Government Leased Property

- a. Secure or store outside items before the storm.
- b. Report landscaping and other landlord items to Housing that might act as projectiles during the storm.
- c. Check your hurricane shutters/report condition to GSO.
- d. Report damage to residence to Housing after the storm.



Valuable Web Links

- www.databases.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/hurricaneplan
- www.nhc.noaa.gov
- www.ready.gov/hurricanes
- <http://www.chiff.com/a/hurricane-tips.htm>
- <http://www.disastercenter.com/guide/hurricane.html>



Questions?



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