



South-West Texas Border  
**Small Business  
Development Center Network**  
*Contracting Resource Center*

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of hurricane season and 2011 is predicted to be a [very active year](http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110519_atlantichurricaneoutlook.html). ([http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110519\\_atlantichurricaneoutlook.html](http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110519_atlantichurricaneoutlook.html)) While coastal communities are typically the most vulnerable to tropical weather activity it's important to remember that tropical storm systems can move hundreds of miles inland and have an impact on the entire state. The outer bands of 2010's Hurricane Alex hit the furthest south points of Texas at a relatively mild 51mph accompanied by 6-9 inches of rain. Yet over the following days the remainder of the storm caused record flooding along its western boundaries, including over 200 miles of the Rio Grande River, as well as record rainfall in Houston – 350 miles to the east. Hurricanes can produce dangerous winds, storm surge, torrential rain, serious inland flooding and tornadoes posing a serious hazard to people, property and business activities.

What can you do before the storm?

- Learn about the hurricane risk for your general community, your industry, your specific location
- Contact local authorities
- Develop an evacuation plan
- Review flood safety & preparedness
- Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit
- Assess your insurance needs

Examine all of your internal and external resources as you plan.

Ask about your community's hurricane preparedness plan. The local emergency management office or local chapter of the American Red Cross should be able to provide you with details of this plan,

including information on the safest evacuation routes, nearby shelters, and what conditions are necessary for recommended evacuation of certain areas.

Talk to your insurance agent. Remember – insurance is a service not a tax. Your insurance agent is an excellent resource for risk management information. Remember to ask about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as well as Windstorm Insurance. You can find additional resources from the Texas Department of Insurance [here](#).

Hurricanes may not be an imminent hazard for your business or employees. But chances are that every community and every business will experience some sort of emergency within any given year. Emergency Preparedness is about examining your processes and taking steps to protect your employees and business assets.

What are some simple steps to start your planning process?

- Make sure you have up to date contact information for all employees
- Decide how you will notify employees if weather or safety conditions will cause delayed opening or complete closing of business
- Safeguard your physical plant and clearly designate responsibilities for checking property and equipment

*If you have any questions about Emergency Preparedness Planning or any other Human Resource related issue please contact Deirdre Pattillo, SPHR – Project Manager/Human Capital Specialist for the UTSA SBDC Contracting Resource Center. at (210) 458-2096 or email at [Deirdre.Pattillo@utsa.edu](mailto:Deirdre.Pattillo@utsa.edu) .*