

INSIGHT REPORT HIGHLIGHT

Preparing for hurricane season - Americas

June 2021



The 2021 hurricane season is expected to see above-average tropical cyclone activity, just as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges for contingency and evacuation planning.

This Insight Report Highlight provides an overview of the hurricane season this year in the Americas region and our recommendations to ensure your organisation's business continuity during the season.

IN THIS HIGHLIGHT

Key judgements	2
Recommendations to managers	2
About the Insight Report	3

This extract is taken from our detailed Security Insight Report, exclusively available to International SOS premium intelligence subscribers.

The full report contains further information and more detailed recommendations including overview of 2020 & 2021 seasons, impact of COVID-19, case studies, relocation considerations and summary of pre- and post-event decisions and actions.



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KEY JUDGEMENTS

- The Caribbean, Central America, and the Atlantic and Gulf coastal areas of the US experience hurricanes and tropical storms in the summer and fall months, most notably **between 1 June and 30 November**. The season peaks **between mid-August and October**.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has increased the number of named storms and hurricanes in an 'average' season due to increased activity in recent years. It is now using the 30-year period between 1991 and 2021 as the new reference for what is considered an average hurricane season; the period previously used spanned 29 years between 1981 and 2010.
- The 2021 season is expected to see higher-than-average activity, with prediction estimates ranging from 13 to 20 named storms (consisting of both tropical storms and hurricanes), including three to five classified as major hurricanes. The previous season in 2020 was the most active on record, yielding 30 named storms and 14 hurricanes.
- A country's level of preparation, supporting infrastructure and response capabilities play a major role in the impact of a hurricane, which can vary from short-duration travel disruption to residual infrastructural damage and casualties. Additionally, ongoing depletion of resources in some countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to adversely impact the relief response to any major storms.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGERS

Below are some of our recommendations to ensure your organisation's business continuity during the hurricane season:

- Managers with operations in at-risk areas should ensure they have comprehensive procedures in place to guarantee business continuity, factoring in the potential need for evacuation or relocation. Although many countries have reopened their borders, international relocation has been made more difficult in the last year due to travel restrictions and related protocols put in place against the spread of COVID-19.
- Comprehensive plans should include clear thresholds for any necessary escalations in status (stand fast, evacuation, etc.), including the timely suspension of travel to affected locations. The method of communicating these decisions and distributing the action plan through the organisation should be carefully planned.
- Review evacuation and business continuity plans as soon as you receive notification that a storm may affect your area of operations. Several factors should be considered when deciding whether to relocate or evacuate workforce in a disaster scenario (available in the main report).



The Insight Report series provides our experts' insights and advice on events or situations which may require our clients' attention due to their potential impact on the risk environment. It covers a variety of themes under Global Insight, Natural Disasters and Climate Insight, Geopolitical Insight, Elections Insight, Crisis Insight, Conflict & Terrorism Insight and Country Profile Insight.

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Enquiries

For further information about the assessments or recommendations in this report and/or to learn how we can support your organisation to build a resilient workforce, please contact us via the enquiry form:

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