

INSIGHT REPORT HIGHLIGHT

Preparing for hurricane season - Americas

June 2022



Higher-than-average hurricane activity is forecast for 2022 in the Americas, with early predictions of around 14-21 named storms. If confirmed, this will be the seventh consecutive hurricane season with above-average activity.

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

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



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Americas: Preparing for hurricane season

OVERVIEW

Hurricane season in the Atlantic Basin and Eastern Pacific typically runs **from 1 June to 30 November**, with the strongest storms most common **between mid-August and October**.

However, it is not uncommon for storms to occur prior to this period. Tropical Storm Andres developed on 9 May 2021, marking the earliest time on record in a given year that a tropical storm had formed over the Pacific Ocean.

The short-lived Tropical Storm Ana subsequently formed over the Atlantic Ocean east of Bermuda on 22 May 2021. While neither storm made landfall, their early formations portended an above-average hurricane season. Early predictions posit suggest the season will see around 14-21 named storms.

The 2021 season was the third-most active on record, with 21 named storms.

The level of preparation, supporting infrastructure and response capabilities at affected locations determine largely the impact of a hurricane or storm. Impacts vary from short-duration disruption to travel and essential services, to significant infrastructural damage and multiple casualties.

Hurricane Ida in August 2021 left 1.2m people without power across eight states, with parts of New Orleans (Louisiana) still under a blackout a week after the storm had passed.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGERS

Below are some of our recommendations to manage associated risks to protect the safety and security of your employees:

Managers operating in at-risk locations should have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to navigate the risks associated with hurricane season. These should take into account business-as-usual processes and more extreme evacuation scenarios.

Review and define triggers and procedures for deferring travel, for evacuation, for standfast etc. This should also entail timely identification of appropriate points of departure, as well as potential domestic and international safe havens.

Several factors should be considered when deciding whether to relocate or evacuate workforce in a disaster scenario. Additional considerations should be made regarding the potential for COVID-19 exposure and spread, with aspects such as social distancing measures and testing protocols factored into evacuation and shelter-in-place plans.

Workforce deployed to hurricane-prone areas should consult their physician prior to deployment and ensure routine vaccinations, including for seasonal influenza and COVID-19, are up-to-date.



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 get in touch.

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