



CARICHAM Regional Growth Series

Preparing for the 2020 Hurricane Season amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES AND BEST PRACTICES

Presented by: Kim P. Jones, MSc, BA, CBCP, MInstAM (Adv. Dip.)

Discussion Points

1. Introduction
2. Standard Hurricane Preparedness Activities
3. Some of the challenges presented by COVID-19
4. Personal Preparedness considerations – COVID-19
5. Business Preparedness and Continuity considerations – COVID-19
6. Conclusion

Presenter Profile



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Kim Jones is the Manager of Business Continuity Management - Sagikor Life Inc. Southern Caribbean. In her role, Kim is responsible for the Management and oversight of the Business Continuity programme for the Southern Caribbean operations. This includes the execution and maintenance of a business continuity strategy that leverages international standards and best practices. To achieve this, she consults with management and business unit heads on disaster risk management matters, to ensure that the Southern Caribbean operations are prepared to respond to disaster events as well as major business disruptions to minimise the negative impact to business operations, employees and customers.

Kim is a Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP), the holder of a Master's Degree in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management from the University of Leicester, UK a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management Degree from the University of Wales, UK and an Advanced Diploma in Administrative Management (MInstAM Adv. Dip.) from the Institute of Administrative Management, UK.

Kim is a member of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce's Disaster Risk Reduction Committee. In this role she provides disaster risk management and business continuity advise to not only further the objectives of the Committee, but also to strengthen overall public and private sector resilience.

Introduction

As you continue to take precautions to keep yourself and your family safe from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it is important to stay prepared for the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

While many of the preparedness tools remain the same as in previous seasons, certain actions may look different while COVID-19 remains a high risk. Although we know that positive cases are decreasing and restrictions are starting to ease, the threat or impact of a hurricane or severe weather system together with the virus would be disastrous while still having COVID-19 cases in the community.

This short, presentation will address perspectives and best practices on hurricane preparedness, with a focus on doing so during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Standard Hurricane Preparedness Activities

- ✓ Know your hurricane risk
- ✓ Make an emergency Plan
- ✓ Gather supplies
- ✓ Plan for those with Disabilities
- ✓ Know your evacuation route and location of emergency shelter
- ✓ Recognize warnings and alerts
- ✓ Review and safeguard important documents
- ✓ Strengthen your home
- ✓ Get 'tech' ready
- ✓ Help your neighbours
- ✓ **Prepare your business**

Some of the challenges presented by COVID-19

It is important to understand that your planning may be different this year because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, for example:

- ✓ Emergency response systems including hospitals may already be at capacity or overwhelmed
- ✓ Evacuating people from impact or compromised areas while maintaining 6 feet of social distancing
- ✓ Adequate shelter space will be needed to house people who can no longer safely crowd into schools, auditoriums and community centers
- ✓ Protecting the most vulnerable people such as the elderly and those with underlying conditions

Personal Preparedness Considerations – Covid -19

- ✓ Give yourself more time than usual to prepare your emergency food, water, and medicine supplies, remember lockdown and curfew restrictions. *Consider, home delivery!*;
- ✓ If in-person shopping is your only choice, take steps to protect yourself and others' health when running essential errands;
- ✓ Pay attention to local guidance about updated plans for evacuations and shelters, including arrangements for your pets;
- ✓ When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow social distancing recommendations (staying at least 6 feet, about 2 arms' length, from others);
- ✓ If you need to go to an emergency shelter, follow the health authorities recommendations for staying safe and healthy in a public disaster shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Personal Preparedness Considerations Cont'd – Covid -19

If you have to utilise an emergency shelter, bring items that can help protect you and others in the shelter from COVID-19, such as:-

- ✓ Hand sanitizer
- ✓ Cleaning materials
- ✓ At least two (2) cloth face coverings per person
- ✓ While at the shelter, be sure to wash your hands regularly
- ✓ If possible, be sure to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet of space between yourself and people who are not members of your household

Personal Preparedness Considerations Cont'd – Covid -19

On Stocking up on supplies and food

- ✓ Household stocking of supplies may be even more critical than normal to get through the hurricane season. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, people have been stockpiling food and supplies (sometimes to the extreme) in response to Covid-19, fortunately, some of these stocks can be doubly useful for hurricanes;
- ✓ The coronavirus outbreak has also led to unique needs, such as disinfectants, soap, and masks. People should remember these different needs as part of their hurricane planning;
- ✓ Hurricane preparation requires material to secure buildings, adequate food and medical supplies etc. **while** Covid-19 preparation requires Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies.

Business Preparedness and Continuity Considerations - COVID -19

Review your business continuity plans now - some things that leaders must consider and improve in their BCPs are the impacts on people, infrastructure and supply chains for example:

- ✓ The physical safety and mental wellbeing of people is the most important factor in maintaining business continuity whilst managing the risks of these two hazards
- ✓ Availability and/or stability for infrastructure is also critical
- ✓ Assess, prioritize and as much as possible ensure the availability of your supply chain. *The COVID-19 Pandemic has truly impact global supply chains!*
- ✓ Assess how workforce shortages, delays in material and money as well as insufficient hospital capacity can impact hurricane response, and incorporating those changes into plans
- ✓ Securing of occupied facilities vs. Work From Home (WFH)

Business Preparedness and Continuity Considerations

COVID -19 Cont'd

- ✓ **Notification and Communication** - Early notification fuels data-driven decision making. Notify customers and staff of the likely possibility of an increase in malware and phishing attacks since many of us are working from home and are not in our usual workplace.
- ✓ **Don't forget cyber security** - Remember to protect data and the systems to ensure safe and speedy recovery
- ✓ **Economic recovery** - Disaster recovery is a long-term process that can take months, years, and decades.
- ✓ Much of the recovery efforts should be occurring after we might expect to have a coronavirus vaccine.
- ✓ The economic slowdown from the pandemic coupled with the impact of a hurricane may affect the speed and scale of recovery



Conclusion

BE MINDFUL OF THE INFLUENCES
ON PREPAREDNESS

Thank You!



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