

# Risk A/T<sup>SM</sup> Work

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."* Benjamin Franklin 1736

We are pleased to introduce the next edition of

**Risk A/T<sup>SM</sup> Work**, a forum dedicated to sharing safety and loss control tips with our brokers and insureds.

**Risk A/T<sup>SM</sup>** is our proprietary risk management approach which promotes informed risk analysis based on two behavioral factors —

**A**ptitude and **T**olerance.

## ABOUT US

Sompo International Insurance works through a global distribution network of retail and wholesale brokers and MGUs to provide high-quality and responsive services to a broad range of clients from large multinationals to small businesses. We offer diverse specialty capabilities across a broad range of products and industry verticals.

*If you would like to subscribe to **Risk A/T<sup>SM</sup> Work**, please contact Victor Sordillo at [vsordillo@sompo-intl.com](mailto:vsordillo@sompo-intl.com)*

*The recommendations and contents of this material are provided for informational purposes only. It is offered as a resource to be used together with your professional insurance advisors in maintaining a loss control program. There is no liability assumed by reason of the information this document contains.*

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## Hurricane Preparation & Recovery for Businesses

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The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane season was catastrophic with the U.S. and Caribbean experiencing unprecedented damage and hundreds of fatalities due to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. If any lessons can be learned from these losses, it is the importance of implementing hurricane safety procedures and best practices ahead of, during and post-event.

In their 35th Atlantic Basin Seasonal Hurricane Forecast, Colorado State University's Tropical Meteorology Project team predicted a "slightly" above average 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season, with 14 named storms. Of those, 7 are expected to become hurricanes with three reaching Category 3 or higher -- with sustained winds of 111mph or greater.<sup>1</sup>

While hurricane season doesn't begin until June 1st, now is the time for businesses to review and refine existing hurricane plans and protocols.

***With potential maximum wind speeds greater than 200mph and the ability to drop more than 2.4 trillion gallons of water in a single day, hurricanes are one of nature's most destructive events.***

### Risk Mitigation

The main goal of a hurricane plan is to reduce a disaster's effects, including injury and loss of life, property and inventory damage, and financial loss from business disruption. The first step is to conduct a current state review which includes:

- Conducting a risk analysis to determine the most probable damages (wind, flood, fire, power outage, etc.) and the potential impact to a business.
- Evaluating a property's existing construction and hurricane protection including roof cover condition, rooftop equipment securement, exterior window adequacy and whether laminated impact resistant glass or storm shutters are needed.
- Assessing flood prone areas, such as basements, ensuring that critical equipment and electrical panels susceptible to flooding damage are elevated.
- Reviewing potential issues that would prevent access to a facility post-event, such as shrubs or branches that could fall and block entrances.
- Identifying hazards associated with response and recovery operations, and implementing actions to ensure employees' protection.

### Emergency Preparedness Plan

Once risks have been assessed, a comprehensive plan that addresses the following questions should be developed and implemented:

- Has a chain of command with roles and responsibilities been established?
- Has a communication plan that provides storm updates, meeting locations, evacuation instructions, etc., been developed?
- Is all critical business data backed-up daily to a secure facility not in a hurricane prone area?
- Have storm supplies (batteries, food, water, etc.) been accounted for and emergency equipment tested (generators, sump pumps, flashlights, etc.)?
- Have resources required to restore business following a disaster been identified?
- Have steps been implemented to operate critical components of a business remotely should access to the facility be delayed?
- Are regular drills conducted to ensure that staff knows what to do in case of an emergency?

### After the Storm

Post-event follow-up is equally as important as it will identify and assess weaknesses and strengths in a business' hurricane plan before the next event. Plans and procedures should be updated based on lessons learned from regular drills and actual storm events.

### Additional Information

For additional information on hurricane preparedness and recovery, please visit the following:

- Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/hurricane/preparedness.html>
- Preparedness Planning for Your Business. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/business>
- [Sompo GRS Loss Control Best Practices and Checklist – Catastrophic Events: Hurricanes](#)
- [Sompo GRS: Safety After the Storm Recommendations](#)

<sup>1</sup> *Slightly above-average 2018 Atlantic hurricane season predicted by CSU team: <https://source.colostate.edu/slightly-above-average-2018-atlantic-hurricane-season-predicted-by-csu-team/>*