Hurricane Preparation & Recovery Webinar: *Prepare for the Storm*

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Hurricane Preparation & Recovery Webinar: *Prepare for the Storm*

Please **use the Q & A** to ask questions, not the Chat. Questions will be answered after the presentation is complete.
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Please complete **the very short evaluation** at end of the webinar – *Thanks!*

Presentation slides and other reading materials for this series are available online at:

[https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/](https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/)

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FLORIDA LAND STEWARD

The Florida Land Steward Program is an extension program of the UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences. The mission of the Program is to help and encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term environmental, economic and social benefits. Read more about the Florida Land Steward Program.

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POLL QUESTIONS – ABOUT YOU
SOURCES

• USDA Hurricane Preparation and Recovery in the Southeastern United States: Pine Forest Landowners Guide

• EDIS publication: Prepare Your Property for Hurricane Season (also printed as article in quarterly Florida Land Steward Newsletter article in Spring-Summer 2020)
  • Hurricane preparation pubs for agricultural operations
  • Tips and feedback from the field
Figure 1. Flowchart for Pine Forest Landowners Guide
PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FIRST

Get all your essentials ready

• UF/IFAS Disaster Preparation site and handbook [https://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/](https://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/)
  • Emergency information and alerts
  • Know your Evacuation Zone and Route
  • Evacuation kit
  • Supplies for at least 72 hours
Get all your essentials ready

- Hurricane supplies tax-free **May 28 through Sunday, June 6**
- Hurricane supplies include items like flashlights, batteries, coolers, and generators
- For full list of qualifying items see: [https://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Documents/FAQexternalConsumers.pdf](https://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Documents/FAQexternalConsumers.pdf)
ASSESS YOUR RISK

• Site Characteristics
  • Flood risk and storm surge
    • Assess historic patterns - which areas are risk of surface flooding or coastal storm surge?

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home


National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): National Storm Surge Hazard Maps (arcgis.com)
FOREST INVENTORY

• Need a Forest Inventory?
  • Provide documentation of forest condition and value prior to storm damage
    • Help estimate losses that may occur for tax, insurance, and/or assistance program purposes
    • Help guide management - determine if a harvest now is best or other management activities should be done (outside of hurricane season) to improve forest health and resilience
  • Measurements:
    • tree species
    • number of trees per acre
    • tree diameters and heights.
  • UF/IFAS Extension Publications on forest inventory: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr426, https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr131
If thinning, shut it down

• If operations are underway or scheduled to begin when a hurricane is projected to make landfall in your area

• Can open the stand structure and leave the remaining trees much more vulnerable to windthrow and damage
• Roads and Drainage

• A slow moving hurricane can produce large amounts of rainfall in a very short period which can cause erosion, undermine roads, and wash away culverts.

• Make sure ditches, culverts, and drains are clear to make sure excess water doesn’t back up and cause flooding.
INFRASTRUCTURE

• Roads and Drainage
  
  • Check roads for any signs of erosion and fill in any holes or ruts with gravel or compacted fill.

• Daylighting - remove trees and vegetation that are within 6 to 10 feet of the road edge
  • allows roads to dry more quickly after rains
  • reduces trees and vegetation that might fall across forest roads during high winds.
INFRASTRUCTURE

• Roads and Drainage
  • Make sure that stream crossings meet your State’s best management practices (BMPs) and culverts are properly sized to prevent blowouts during periods of high water flow.
  
  • For more information on constructing and maintaining forest roads, see:
PRUNING

Prune Trees and Branches

• Trim hazard trees and branches over structures, fences, roads, bridges
• Reduce broken or dead limbs that could cause damage.
CONTAINERS

Fill the Tanks

• Drinking water, gas, diesel, propane, chain saw fuel, and other materials should be topped off to ensure availability during post-storm recovery.
EQUIPMENT

Emergency equipment

• Chain saws
• Generators
• Air compressors
• Other tools on hand and in good working condition
Communications Equipment

- Phone batteries charged, chargers located, hand held radios (if you have them) charged up and ready, extra batteries
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous Materials Secure

• Pesticides, fertilizers, fuel stored and secured prior to the storm
• Gasoline pumps, if present, should be shut down.
SECURITY

Lock the Gates

• Prevent unauthorized individuals from entry
• Prevent damage to wet roads
• Hazardous conditions - increased risk of injury
• Make sure signs are posted
Take photos

• Take photos of your stands and/or fields before the storm
• Have a record of the condition of these areas before damage occurs.
• Will help with records needed for insurance claims and/or government assistance programs.
RECORDS, DOCUMENTATION, INSURANCE

- Get organized - the importance of pre- and post-hurricane documentation cannot be overstated.
- Assistance for disaster recovery may not be available until months or years after a hurricane.

- For purposes of insurance compensation and recovery assistance - thorough recordkeeping of the damages and losses sustained on your forest land as well as your cleanup and recovery efforts.
RECORDS, DOCUMENTATION, INSURANCE

• **Insurance**
  - Review your insurance policies with your agent to be sure you have adequate coverage, including flood insurance, for your property, vehicles, equipment, and forest stands.
    - Be aware that there are limitations on how soon insurance coverage will take effect - Generally, insurance policies will not cover damage if the policy was not in place before a hurricane has formed.
  - 2 general types of timber insurance:
    - **Standing timber** insurance that can help offset losses in mature timber stands that are merchantable and due to be harvested.
    - **Reforestation** insurance that can be used to help a landowner replant nonmerchantable stands lost to wind and fire events.
Inventories and documentation

- A recent forest inventory is useful:
  - determining pre-hurricane fair market value of your forest land,
  - assessing loss after the hurricane, and
  - filing for casualty loss with the IRS.

- Keep copies of your inventory in multiple places such as on your computer, water-proof file box, and on a cloud-based server.

- Take pictures of stands before and after the storm.
• Hurricane tracking

  • Bookmark websites or download computer and mobile device applications (apps) that model hurricane track predictions, send alerts, and track hurricane impacts.

  • The NOAA National Hurricane Center website is a good source of current information on existing storms: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

  • For more on connecting to emergency alerts, see https://www.ready.gov/alerts
CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

- Florida Forest Service County Forester
- Florida Forest Service BMP Forester – roads and drainage
- UF/IFAS County Extension Agent (Ag/Natural Resources Agent)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Landowner Assistance Program Biologist
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist
- USDA Farm Service Agency Agent
  - **You can get your forms filled out ahead of time!....**
CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

• USDA Farm Service Agency
  • Complete your farm records ahead of time!
    • Don’t wait until after a disaster to get your paperwork done – avoid application backlog!
    • EFRP application backlog after Hurricane Michael – still not caught up 3 years after that storm
    • You’ll receive E-notifications about recovery programs from FSA after the storm
  • Already have farm records in?
    • Review and make sure they are complete and up-to-date
  • https://www.farmers.gov/connect
CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

Consulting Forester

• Assistance in all phases of management
  • Management plan preparation, inventory, planting, site prep, nutrition, prescribed burning, thinning, marketing timber

• UF/IFAS pub on Selecting a Consultant - https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr125
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Local Timber Industry

• Florida Forestry Association
  http://floridaforest.org/
CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

Get Certified!

- American Tree Farm System
  https://www.treefarmsystem.org/

- Florida Tree Farm Program
  https://www.treefarmsystem.org/florida
QUESTIONS?

• Please use the Q&A function for questions
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Please fill out the Evaluation for this Webinar:
https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_39OxVEDLQ9femV0

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THANKS FOR JOINING US!