

2026 HURRICANE PREP CHECKLIST FOR FLORIDA MANUFACTURERS

43% of small and mid-sized businesses never reopen after a major disaster. Another **29%** fail within two years. Preparation is the difference.

Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1 – November 30, 2026

BEFORE THE SEASON (DO NOW)

- Complete the FloridaMakes DIRA assessment
- Review property, business interruption, and flood insurance
- Confirm NFIP flood policy is active (30-day waiting period)
- Back up critical operational data offsite and to cloud
- Photograph equipment, serial numbers, and inventory
- Build a waterproof 'records-to-go' box
- Identify alternate suppliers; pre-position inventory off flood zones
- Service generators; verify safe placement and ventilation
- Stage tarps, plywood, shutters, sandbags
- Test remote-work capability for office staff
- Build and test an employee emergency contact tree
- Verify cybersecurity posture before season peak

AFTER THE STORM

- Confirm employee safety before anything else
- Do not enter facility until structurally cleared
- Photograph and document all damage before cleanup
- Report damage via FL Business Damage Assessment Survey
- Contact insurance carrier; begin claims documentation
- Notify customers and suppliers of operational status
- Apply for SBA EIDL and/or FL Emergency Bridge Loan
- Update DIRA with post-event impact data
- Check on employees; share Disaster Distress Helpline
- Post-event debrief; update continuity plan

STORM APPROACHING (48–72 HRS)

- Monitor NOAA Hurricane Center forecasts (nhc.noaa.gov)
- Top off fuel for generators, vehicles, and forklifts
- Move critical inventory and equipment off ground floor
- Secure loose materials, dumpsters, outdoor equipment
- Power down non-essentials; protect sensitive electronics
- Distribute employee communications; confirm contact info
- Brief leadership on shutdown and reopen criteria
- Verify emergency cash on hand
- Photograph facility condition (interior + exterior)
- Run a final backup; verify off-site completion

SHARE WITH YOUR TEAM & FAMILIES

- Know your evacuation zone (FloridaDisaster.org/Know)
- Build a 7-day supply kit per person (and pets)
- Make a household plan with meeting points
- Sign up for county emergency alerts
- Download utility apps for outage reporting
- Keep gas tank above half full all season
- Keep some cash on hand; ATMs may be down

KEY RESOURCES & PHONE NUMBERS

FloridaMakes Disaster Resources
floridamakes.com/supplychainflorida/disaster-resources

DIRA Assessment Tool
FloridaMakesContinuity.com/DIRA

Florida Business Hotline
 850-410-1403

Business Damage Assessment
floridadisaster.biz/BusinessDamageAssessments

SBA Disaster Loans (EIDL)
disasterloanassistance.sba.gov · 800-659-2955

FL Emergency Bridge Loan
 850-898-3489

FEMA Disaster Assistance
disasterassistance.gov · 800-621-3362

NOAA Hurricane Center
nhc.noaa.gov

Florida Emergency Info Line
 800-342-3557

Disaster Distress Helpline
 Call or text 1-800-985-5990

Price Gouging Hotline (FL AG)
 1-866-9-NO-SCAM

Florida SBDC
floridasbdc.org · 850-898-3489

UTILITY OUTAGES: FPL 1-800-468-8243 · Duke Energy 1-800-228-8485 · Tampa Electric 1-877-588-1010
 Check your utility's app for faster reporting