

Plastridge Insurance School & Child Care Facility 2021 Hurricane Season Prep

Plastridge
INSURANCE SINCE 1919
www.Plastridge.com

BEFORE THE STORM

The 2020 hurricane season shattered all previous records with 30 named storms (39mph winds) of which 13 became hurricanes (74mph winds) including six major hurricanes (111mph winds). The Greek Alphabet was used for naming storms for only the second time in history and 2021 predictions are not looking optimistic. It is no wonder the NOAA is considering moving hurricane season up to May 15th!

That being said, there are numerous proactive steps you can take as owners to ensure you are properly prepared when a storm is approaching including:

- Prepare Your Facility:** Shutters or impact glass will protect the weak points of your building. We strongly recommend that loose playground equipment, furniture etc. is either brought inside or strongly secured.
- Review Your Policies:** Knowing your coverages and when each deductible is applicable before you are in the middle of a hurricane claim can significantly simplify the process. This can be helpful with regards to budgeting as well.
- Engage Contractors Early:** Demand for contractors will always skyrocket following a catastrophic storm. We strongly encourage all of our clients to have contractors set up prior to the "post storm rush". This helps avoid extended wait times as well as increased pricing.

Ask About Our Complete Insurance Program Review:

- Property
- Flood
- General Liability
- Professional Liability
- Abuse/Molestation
- Employment Practices
- Student Accident
- Commercial Auto
- Excess/Umbrella
- Workers Compensation

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AFTER THE STORM

The days following a storm can be stressful but these are also some of the most important days from an insurance perspective. In the days/weeks following a storm there are a number of steps you can take to ensure that the claims process is as smooth as possible including:

- Contact Your Agent:** We encourage all facilities to engage their agent and have a conversation immediately following a storm. This allows us to evaluate the extent of the damage and determine our course of action as far as filing a claim.
- Establish The Applicable Deductible:** Wind deductibles are typically going to be a percentage of your insured value, but each policy varies in how these are structured. You may have an "all wind" deductible in which case the higher percentage deductible will apply to all wind events (hurricane, tropical storm, tornado etc.). You may alternatively have a specific "hurricane deductible" in which case this higher percentage deductible *applies only to hurricanes* (all other wind events would fall under your lower deductible). Establishing which deductible is going to apply will help quantify your out of pocket exposure.
- Begin Repairs:** As an insured you do have an obligation to prevent further damage following a loss. In our initial post-storm conversation with clients we always encourage that repairs begin in order to prevent additional damage and to ensure a quick reopening.



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