

A publication of  
Business Staffing, Inc.

# REVIEWS & STUFF

A monthly review of stuff affecting employees of Business Staffing, Inc.



## Feature:

### Hurricane Preparedness

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## What are Hurricanes?

[www.drgeorgepc.com](http://www.drgeorgepc.com)

**H**urricanes are severe tropical cyclones with winds reaching sustained speeds of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds spiraling toward a relatively calm center or eye of low pressure at speeds which may reach more than 150 miles per hour (130 knots). Near the center, hurricane winds may gust to more than 200 miles per hour.

Although usually erratic and unpredictable, hurricanes generally follow a westerly to northwesterly path. In the Atlantic, they move toward the Gulf of Mexico or the Eastern U.S. coast causing abnormal water level fluctuations known as hurricane surges. In the Pacific, hurricanes or cyclones (as often called) generally follow the same westerly to northwesterly path. Major hurricane hazards include high winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, storm surge and high surf. If a hurricane has developed from a tropical storm, it retains the same name as the storm. Every year, these violent storms bring destruction to coastlines and islands in their erratic path.

Stated very simply, hurricanes are

giant whirlwinds in which air moves in a large tightening spiral around a center of extreme low pressure, reaching maximum velocity in a circular band extending outward 20 or 30 miles from the rim of the eye. This is called the area of maximum winds. This circulation is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. The entire storm dominates the ocean surface and lower atmosphere over tens of thousands of square miles.

The storms move forward very slowly in the tropics, and may remain almost stationary for short periods of time.



The initial forward speed is usually 15 miles per hour or less. This is called the translational speed of the hurricane. Then, as the hurricane moves farther from the Equator, its forward speed tends to increase; at middle latitudes it may exceed 50 miles per hour in extreme cases.

## Hurricane Preparedness

[www.hhs.gov/news/facts/hurricane.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/facts/hurricane.html)

**T**his newsletter contains health and safety tips for families preparing for a hurricane from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration.



### Hurricanes and Your Health and Safety

n The great majority of injuries dur-

ing a hurricane are cuts caused by flying glass or other debris. Other injuries include puncture wounds resulting from exposed nails, metal, or glass, and bone fractures.

n State and local health departments may issue health advisories or recommendations particular to local conditions. If in doubt, contact your local or state health department.

n Make sure to include all essential medications -- both prescription and

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## Emergency Supply Kit

[www.khou.com](http://www.khou.com)

**D**uring the hurricane season between June and November, you should keep the following supplies on hand:

- ▼ At least a three-day supply of canned or packaged, non-perishable food.
- ▼ Enough water to supply each person with one gallon per day. Also fill bathtub and other containers.
- ▼ First-aid kit
- ▼ Bleach (without lemon or any other additives)
- ▼ Extra prescription medicine
- ▼ Plywood boards to board up windows
- ▼ Lantern
- ▼ Fuel
- ▼ Fire extinguisher
- ▼ Battery-operated radio
- ▼ Flashlights
- ▼ Extra batteries
- ▼ Toiletries
- ▼ Can opener (non-electric)
- ▼ Eating utensils
- ▼ Matches
- ▼ Emergency cooking facilities
- ▼ Baby food, diapers and formula if applicable
- ▼ Pet supplies, if applicable
- ▼ Portable cooler
- ▼ Mosquito repellent

S S S

*Will my portable television work after June 12's digital television conversion?*

*Unfortunately, no.*

S S S

## Q & A

**Q** How are hurricanes and typhoons different?

**A** Both are the kind of storms known as tropical cyclones. Such storms are called hurricanes when they form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, or the Pacific east of the International Date Line. West of the Date Line and north of the equator they are called typhoons. In the South Pacific and Indian Ocean they are just

called cyclones, or "tropical cyclones".

**Q** Will this be a busy hurricane season?

**A** NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is forecasting an average season for 2009. Specifically, NOAA is predicting nine to 14 named storms, with four to seven becoming hurricanes, and one to three reaching Category 3 or more on the Saffir-Simpson scale. We are noticing a weakening La Nina, and possibly an El Nino by summer. Ocean temperatures are also cooler than normal.

**Q** Should I tape my windows?

**A** No, this is an old wife's tale that still sticks around today. Tape will not help protect your home or family.

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# Hurricane Names for 2009

geography.about.com

For every year, there is a pre-approved list of names for tropical storms and hurricanes. These lists have been generated by the National Hurricane Center since 1953. At first, the lists consisted of only female names; however, since 1979, the lists alternate between male and female.

Hurricanes are named alphabetically from the list in chronological order. Thus the first tropical storm or hurricane of the year has a name that begins with "A" and

the second is given the name that begins with "B". The lists contain names that begin from A to W, but exclude names that begin with a "Q" or "U".

There are six lists that continue to rotate. The lists only change when there is a hurricane that is so devastating, the name is retired and another name replaces it.



## 2009 Hurricane Names

Ana	Grace	Mindy	Teresa
Bill	Henri	Nicholas	Victor
Claudette	Ida	Odette	Wanda
Danny	Joaquin	Peter	
Erika	Kate	Rose	
Fred	Larry	Sam	

## Hurricane Preparedness

Cont. from p. 1

over the counter -- in your family's emergency disaster kit.

### Water Quality

n Hurricanes, especially if accompanied by a tidal surge or flooding, can contaminate the public water supply. Drinking contaminated water may cause illness. You cannot assume that the water in the hurricane-affected area is safe to drink.

n In the area hit by a hurricane, water treatment plants may not be operating; even if they are, storm damage and flooding can contaminate water lines. Listen for public announcements about the safety of the municipal water supply.

n If your well has been flooded, it needs to be tested and disinfected after the storm passes and the floodwaters recede.

### Water Safety

n Use bottled water that has not been exposed to flood waters if it is available.

n If you don't have bottled water,

you should boil water to make it safe. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for boiling. Boil the water for one minute, let it cool, and store it in clean containers with covers.

n If you can't boil water, you can disinfect it using household bleach. Bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms that may be in the water. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for disinfection. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.

n If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact your local or state health department or agriculture extension agent for specific advice.

## Reviews & Stuff

This newsletter is intended to make you aware of some of the rules and regulations affecting you in the workplace. We would like to give you some insight into the progress of Business Staffing Inc., and to keep you abreast of the changes affecting staff leasing.

Please feel free to write to us and let us know your ideas on the things we could do to improve our services. We would appreciate your comments.

# Hurricane Evacuation Tips

www.khou.com

*You cannot climb uphill by thinking downhill thoughts.*

## Along the Way

- Have your route mapped out ahead of time with printable maps provided by TxDOT. To view road conditions on Texas highways, visit TxDOT's Road Conditions web site at [www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road\\_conditions.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road_conditions.htm)
- Tune in: Listen to local radio or television for evacuation information.
- Take only one vehicle to help lessen congestion and fuel demand.
- Don't trailer boats or campers. If you need to get them away from the coast, leave earlier.
- Don't carry extra fuel. It's dangerous.
- Carry an emergency kit in your car.
- Motorists should turn off their ignition when stopped for a long time in traffic.

## Fuel

- During hurricane season, coastal residents should never operate their vehicles with less than half a tank of fuel.
- Motorists should fill their tanks before evacuating.
- TxDOT has worked with the private sector (Texas Oil and Gas Association and the Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association) to assure maximum-possible fuel availability during an evacuation.
- Should fuel supplies become low, evacuees should look for TxDOT signs indicating key fuel locations.
- TxDOT courtesy vehicles will be patrolling major evacuation routes.

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## Editorial



## Carvie's Corner

Hurricane season officially starts June 1st and lasts until November 30th. Hurricanes can sometimes spawn tornadoes. If you live in a hurricane prone area, make sure you know where all of the evacuation routes are. Always listen to the radio and television for the latest information and instructions for your area.

If we remember the warnings and events surrounding our most recent hurricanes, we know that this can be very serious and waiting till the last minute should not be an option.

For the safety of your home, your business and the employees, make sure everyone knows what to do when there is the possibility of severe weather.

Go through your company's procedures for securing your facility and make sure the employees are aware of their responsibilities.

Carvie  
ADL

## The Taylors



Well Lois, do you think it's time we get on the road, too?"

# NEWS RELEASE

## Oklahoma AG: Law Allowing Guns in Vehicles at Workplaces Will Stand

www.insurancejournal.com / April 17, 2009

**A** 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that allows Oklahomans to store firearms in locked vehicles parked on company property will stand after the filing deadline passed for further legal appeals, Attorney General Drew Edmondson announced.

Edmondson's office, in partnership with the National Rifle Association (NRA), defended the constitutionality of two Oklahoma gun laws that prohibit businesses from forbidding their employees to store firearms in locked vehicles parked on company property.

A federal lawsuit filed in 2004 claimed the statutes were unconstitutional and preempted by federal statutes. The federal district court rejected the plaintiffs' constitutional arguments but found that the statutes were preempted by the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA).

Edmondson and the NRA then took the case to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, asking the circuit court to overturn the lower court's OSHA preemption ruling.

Earlier this year, the court granted Edmondson's request and reversed the district court's decision regarding OSHA.

The plaintiffs, Ramsey Winch Inc., Auto Crane Co., ConocoPhillips, Norris, DP Manufacturing Inc., and Tulsa Winch Inc., could have appealed the ruling to the United States Supreme Court within 90 days, but that deadline has passed.

"We will continue to vigorously defend the Second Amendment right of every American to keep and bear arms," Edmondson said. "I am grateful to the NRA for their expertise and support in this effort."

Hear Ye,  
Hear Ye,  
Hear Ye!

All ye who  
haveth eyes  
to see and  
ears to  
hear!

If you think  
you have an  
interesting  
story or  
article that  
you would  
like to see  
printed, in  
Reviews &  
Stuff send  
it in to me.

If we use it  
in one of our  
publications,  
we will give  
you \$25.00.

Send all  
stories,  
articles and  
inquiries to:  
C. P.  
Chapman

(See address  
on page 2)

Clouds in contact with the ground FOG  
Sizes: pea, marble, golf ball, tennis ball, or large  
et HAIL  
Water vapor that condenses and falls as liquid  
precipitation RAIN  
Ice crystals formed during precipitation in  
freezing temperatures SNOW  
A chinook is a warm, dry wind, especially from  
the ROCKY Mountains  
Unstable atmosphere usually with high winds  
and precipitation STORM  
Breeze, gale, zephyr, and squall are names for  
WINDS  
White, wispy, high altitude clouds CIRRUS  
Visible water vapor in the atmosphere  
CLOUDS  
Weather is greatly affected by the SEASON or  
time of the year  
A storm system rotating about an area of low  
pressure CYCLONE  
Heavy seasonal winds bringing heavy rain to  
southern Asia MONSOON  
Thunder sound following a lightning flash THUN-  
DER  
A funnel-shaped vortex of high winds common  
in the Central U.S. TORNADO  
The name for a hurricane that occurs in the

western Pacific Ocean TYPHOON  
A winter storm system with blowing snow and  
low visibility BLIZZARD  
Check the FORECAST to see if it will rain  
tomorrow  
It's not the heat, it's the HUMIDITY  
Weather event with rain freezing upon contact  
with the ground ICE STORM  
Areas of high PRESSURE tend to provide fair  
weather by diverting storms  
A tropical cyclone with sustained winds over 74  
mph HURRICANE  
Narrow, high altitude westerly wind affecting  
weather patterns JET STREAM  
Flash of light emitted when atmospheric elec-  
tricity is discharged LIGHTNING  
Device for measuring the amount of precipita-  
tion that has fallen RAIN GAUGE  
The protective layer of gases that covers the  
earth's surface ATMOSPHERE  
Type of thunderstorm clouds rising to altitudes  
of 50,000 feet CUMULONIMBUS  
The leading edge of an advancing storm system  
WEATHER FRONT  
Term for a scientist who studies the weather  
METEOROLOGIST



# The Silver Platter Safety Meeting



## Standard, Film or Topic of the Month:

<b>Hurricane Safety</b>

## Incident Review:

Incident / Near Miss	Action taken to prevent reoccurrence
Mark was in a hurry to get the plywood on his windows and cut his fingers with a saw.	All tools are to be used carefully with thought and direction. If your mind is on several projects at once, don't take harmful shortcuts to get through these jobs. You could pay dearly.

## Questions and Suggestions:

Submitted by	Discussion / Topic	Status
Sharon	How can we get employees to pay attention to what they are doing?	Knowing the hazards that exist can go a long way in keeping employees focused when using any type of tool.

## Material Safety Data Sheet(s) Reviewed:

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## Safe Work Practice:


## Inspection / Housekeeping:


## Sign-In-Roster


Employee Signatures

**Safety Videos**

126. Natural Disaster Preparedness

210. Warning Blast

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# Hurricane Evacuation Tips

Cont. from p. 4

## Where to Go

Decide early where you will go when a hurricane threatens and make preparations. Your general objective should be to move away from the coast and well inland.

- If you want to stay at a hotel or motel, make reservations as soon as possible. If you've previously stayed somewhere that was satisfactory, call that place.
- For major cities, the local Convention and Visitors Center can usually provide you information on hotels and motels; many Convention and Visitor Centers can also be accessed through the Internet. In smaller towns, the local Chamber of Commerce can generally tell you what accommodations are available locally.
- If you plan to stay with family or friends, call them in advance so they may plan for your arrival. If your plans change, be sure to inform the person with whom you intended to stay so that they don't worry.
- Let your family and friends know where you can be reached.
- Make sure you choose an alternative destination in the event you are unable to get to your first choice.

## Key Telephone Numbers

- The number to call for road conditions on state highways is 1-800-452-9292.
- If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- For information on evacuation routes, shelters and special needs transportation, call 2-1-1.

## Shelters

Public shelters provide temporary housing for evacuees. Most shelters do not have beds or cots, so you will probably be sleeping on the floor. So pack as if you were going camping. Bring:

- Sleeping pads or air mattresses
- Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person
- Robe & shower shoes
- Books, cards, games and QUIET toys for children
- Note that alcoholic beverages, weapons, and drugs are not allowed in public shelters.

## Returning Home

- Return only after the all-clear is given for your area.
- Do not venture onto roads until you have been advised that they are passable and safe.
- TxDOT will post staggered re-entry maps on [TexasOnline.com](http://TexasOnline.com)
- In Oklahoma you can go to ODOT at [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us) for highway information.

### Hurricane Health and Safety Tip

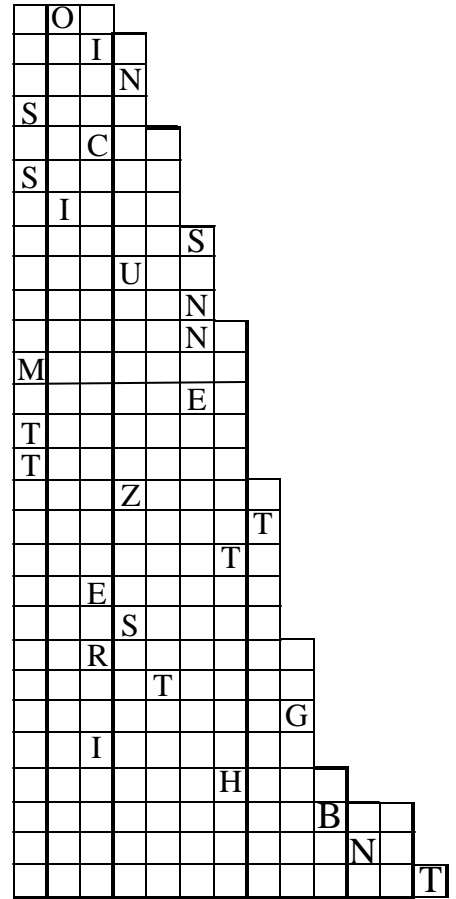
#### Get Weekly Tips from CDC

Sign up to receive weekly tips from CDC by email, mobile phone text message, RSS, or Twitter. In addition to the weekly tips, CDC will also provide you important, timely tips relevant to storms making landfall throughout the season. Go to [www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/reminders.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/reminders.asp) for more info.



# WEATHER!

- ♦ Clouds in contact with the ground
- ♦ Sizes: pea, marble, golf ball, tennis ball, or larger
- ♦ Water vapor that condenses and falls as liquid precipitation
- ♦ Ice crystals formed during precipitation in freezing temperatures
- ♦ A chinook is a warm, dry wind, especially from the \_\_\_ Mountains
- ♦ Unstable atmosphere usually with high winds and precipitation
- ♦ Breeze, gale, zephyr, and squall are names for \_\_\_
- ♦ White, wispy, high altitude clouds
- ♦ Visible water vapor in the atmosphere
- ♦ Weather is greatly affected by the \_\_\_ or time of the year
- ♦ A storm system rotating about an area of low pressure
- ♦ Heavy seasonal winds bringing heavy rain to southern Asia
- ♦ Loud sound following a lightning flash
- ♦ A funnel-shaped vortex of high winds common in the Central U.S.
- ♦ The name for a hurricane that occurs in the western Pacific Ocean
- ♦ A winter storm system with blowing snow and low visibility
- ♦ Check the \_\_\_ to see if it will rain tomorrow
- ♦ It's not the heat, it's the \_\_\_
- ♦ Weather event with rain freezing upon contact with the ground
- ♦ Areas of high \_\_\_ tend to provide fair weather by diverting storms
- ♦ A tropical cyclone with sustained winds over 74 mph
- ♦ Narrow, high altitude westerly wind affecting weather patterns
- ♦ Flash of light emitted when atmospheric electricity is discharged
- ♦ Device for measuring the amount of precipitation that has fallen
- ♦ The protective layer of gases that covers the earth's surface
- ♦ Type of thunderstorm clouds rising to altitudes of 50,000 feet
- ♦ The leading edge of an advancing storm system
- ♦ Term for a scientist who studies the weather



Answer on p. 5



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## The Suggestion Box

If you are having trouble getting your supervisor to participate in safety or if you have special safety concerns that are not being addressed, write me. We all must do our part to keep you safe and healthy.

