June 1st officially marks the start of the annual Atlantic hurricane season. Although the chance of a hurricane impacting the continental United States can occur anytime between June and the end of November, the season usually peaks between late August and early September.

According to the National Weather Service Hurricane Center, a hurricane is a type of tropical storm or cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed is 74 mph or more. There are 5 categories of hurricanes based on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. With the increase in wind speeds, there comes an increase in potential damage.

Locally, we can be affected by inland flooding, high winds, and tornadoes as a result of a hurricane. This can cause a loss of utilities like electricity, water, and wastewater. During Hurricane Ike, some communities surrounding Bryan/College Station were without power for several weeks. How should you prepare? Ready.gov recommends the following:

- Build an emergency kit
- Make a family communications plan
- Know your surroundings and local hazards
- Make plans to secure your property (especially if you choose to evacuate)
- Cover all your home’s windows
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed

Basic Emergency Supply Kits

- Water: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, NOAA weather radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kid
- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food

More info:

- TAMU Emergency Preparedness
- Ready.gov
- National Hurricane Center
Environmental Health and Safety recently received a 2-star rating through the Sustainable Office Certification program implemented by the Office of Sustainability. The program is designed to help make Texas A&M’s faculty and staff more aware of sustainable practices and to bring attention to waste.

Not Just West Nile Virus... Other mosquito-related diseases emerge in Texas

Though West Nile Virus has been a known concern among Bryan/College Station residents in the past, other lesser-known arboviruses have recently been identified in animals and humans in Texas. Cases of Chikungunya, Dengue Fever, and Saint Louis Encephalitis have already been reported this year.

Avoiding mosquito bites is the first line of defense against any of these potentially life-threatening diseases. Remember to...

- Dress appropriately (long sleeves, pants while outdoors).
- Avoid activities at dawn and dusk (when mosquitoes are most active).
- Use mosquito repellant that contains DEET.
- Drain standing water (use mosquito dunks where appropriate).

More information:

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):
- Arbovirus Information
- Chikungunya Information
- Arbovirus Weekly Activity Reports
- West Nile Virus FAQ

Local Resources:
- City of Bryan Mosquito Abatement Program
- City of College Station Mosquito Abatement Program
- Brazos County Health Department
Updated Standards for Emergency Eyewashes & Showers

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) has received American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval for ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014, American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment.

ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014 was prepared by the Emergency Eyewash and Shower Group of the ISEA and reviewed by a consensus panel of key stakeholders representing architects, healthcare facilities, chemical and safety professionals and government agencies.

This revision updates the 2009 version and includes further clarification to emphasize that fluid flow location and pattern delivery for emergency eyewashes and eye/face washes is the critical aspect in designing and installing these devices, rather than the positioning of nozzles. Additionally, illustrations have been updated to reflect contemporary design configurations that are known to meet the criteria in the standard.

In addition to the revised standard, the ISEA’s new Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment Selection, Installation and Use Guide provides assistance on the proper selection, use and maintenance of equipment. For more information, visit www.safetyequipment.org.

Have questions about an eyewash in your area? Misplace your shower tag? Need a shower or eyewash installed? labsafety@tamu.edu

Mark Your Calendar...

June 1-November 30: Atlantic Hurricane Season

July 7: Last day to register for annual parking permit

August 31: First day of fall classes

For more upcoming dates and events: University Calendar EHS Calendar

Don’t forget to keep up with EHS...

This issue of Safety Dispatch will be distributed electronically and published online only. EHS will consider printing future issues after reviewing expressed requests. If you or your department is interested in receiving future newsletters on paper, please email safetydispatch@tamu.edu and include your department, mail stop, and number of requested copies.
Enter to win a great summer prize!

Can you count how many times the mosquito appears in this newsletter?

For a chance to win a prize, email your answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.

Did you know?

The highest recorded wind speed at ground level during a hurricane in Texas was in 1970. Hurricane Celia hit Corpus Christi with 161 mph winds.

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They now rotate six lists. 2015’s names can be found here.

Interested in other trainings?

See the list of currently offered courses (online and classroom) on the EHS training page or call 979-845-2132 to inquire about additional topics.

EHS Training Schedule

Click on a name or date below to register for classroom training:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Radiation Safety</td>
<td>6/25, 7/22, 8/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness</td>
<td>6/18, 7/16, 8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Laboratory Safety Training</td>
<td>6/9, 7/9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Office of Sustainability has posters and images you can print to remind your coworkers to turn off lights, computers, and other electronics when they leave the office. You can find them here.

The EPA does not recommend any additional precautions for insect repellant use by pregnant or nursing women, and most products can safely be used on children. For more information, visit the CDC’s Insect Repellent Use & Safety page.

Safety Sound Off
Utilities & Energy Services
Water Treatment Group

EHS would like to recognize Darryl Peterson, Melissa Loyd, and Jimmy Holliday of the water treatment group at Utilities & Energy Services. They work hard to schedule deliveries on weekends or off-peak hours to minimize impact to campus traffic, plant operations, and maintenance activities. They have safely transferred thousands of gallons of chemicals without incident, and this accomplishment can be attributed to their attention to detail and commitment to safe work practices. Thank you, Darryl, Melissa, and Jimmy for your part in keeping Texas A&M a safe place to work, visit, and live.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Office of Sustainability has posters and images you can print to remind your coworkers to turn off lights, computers, and other electronics when they leave the office. You can find them here.

BEAT THE HEAT:

Extreme Heat
Heat related deaths are 100% preventable

WHO:

Children, Elderly, Houses with little to no AC, Construction Workers

WHERE:

Click for more info from the CDC.

WHAT:

Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

HOW to AVOID:

Stay hydrated with water, Stay cool in an air conditioned area, Wear lightweight light colored loose fitting clothes

Click for more info from the CDC.