

Hurricane and Tropical Storm Preparedness: Stay Connected, Stay Informed

Hurricane season is June 1 to Nov. 30. Should weather on Florida's Space Coast take a turn for the worse, KSC employees can rely on these critical resources to keep them connected and informed.

KSCsos.com

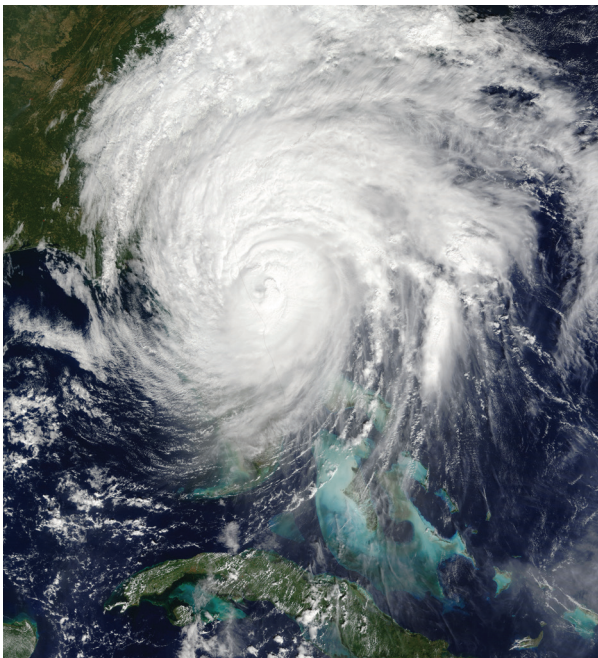
Managed by Kennedy's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), KSCsos.com is your go-to website for the latest storm news, KSC operational status, links to the National Hurricane Center, shelter and roadway information, and more. (Photos and other employee submissions will be considered by the EOC for posting.)

HOTLINES

Toll Free: 1-866-572-4877

Local: 321-861-7900

The latest KSC operational status update and other pertinent data direct from the EOC.



An image taken from NASA's Terra satellite on Oct. 7, 2016, shows Hurricane Matthew covering the entire state of Florida. The storm hit Kennedy Space Center as a Category 3 hurricane. Photo credit: NASA's Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team

HURRICANE CONDITIONS (HURCON)

A HURCON is an alert scale that signifies when specific preparations should be made for an approaching hurricane. It is important to understand the distinction between the time of onset of sustained winds and the time of landfall.

Kennedy's HURCON actions are as follows:

- **HURCON IV:** 72 hours prior to 50-knot sustained winds. Initial notification and preparation phase; includes implementing organization-specific check-lists, ensuring all government-owned vehicles and General Services Administration vehicles are fully fueled, and confirming Rideout Team (ROT) personnel
- **HURCON III:** 48 hours prior to 50-knot sustained winds. Primary actions include securing facilities, property and equipment, as well as briefing and deploying the ROT
- **HURCON II:** 24 hours prior to 50-knot sustained winds. All securing actions are completed or terminated; non-ROT personnel is released and ROT personnel is sheltered
- **HURCON I:** 12 hours prior to 50-knot sustained winds. Kennedy remains closed, all perimeter gates closed, ROT is sheltered at designated locations

THE ROAD TO ALL CLEAR

Emergency Decision Team (EDT) / NASA Emergency Management Of- ficer (NEMO)

The EDT and NEMO work very closely when dealing with a storm. The EDT, which includes the center director, Kennedy senior management and contractor senior management, comes together when a hurricane threat is determined by the NEMO.

The NEMO activates and leads the Emergency Operations Center.

NASAfacts

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The EOC is the focal point for hurricane preparation and response. Each organization at Kennedy has a point of contact — called an emergency coordinator or hurricane coordinator — whose responsibility it is to ensure and confirm to the EOC that checklists are being followed.

During a hurricane, the EOC operates out of a central location — on the second floor of the Launch Control Center (LCC). The LCC is the only building on Kennedy property that is rated to withstand a Category 5 hurricane.

45th Weather Squadron

The 45th Weather Squadron, Kennedy's official weather service, dedicates a weather officer to the center's EOC. The weather officer evaluates forecast and model data provided by the National Hurricane Center and interprets this information to assess impacts to the 144,000-acre space center.

Ride-Out Team (ROT)

The ROT, which comprises 100-120 people, resides at the center for the duration of the storm. The team's job is to keep essential infrastructure operational and perform initial damage assessment.

As soon as the storm passes, the ROT does a windshield survey, making observations from a vehicle. The ROT addresses the immediate issues before handing off to the Damage Assessment and Recovery Team.



Kennedy Space Center's Operations Support Building I (OSB I) was one of several structures that were damaged by Hurricane Matthew, which hit Florida's Space Coast in October 2016. Photo credit: NASA

Damage Assessment and Recovery Team (DART)

The DART takes over where the ROT leaves off. The DART comprises the minimum number of essential personnel required to appropriately assess damage, restore essential ser-

vices and infrastructure and return the center to normal safe operating conditions following a storm. This team is organized in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards.



This Sept. 12, 2017 photo shows a trailer flipped on its side at the Turn Basin as part of damage Kennedy sustained during Hurricane Irma. In the background is the iconic Vehicle Assembly Building. Photo credit: NASA/Bill White

Emergency Support Function (ESF)

The ESF features an organizational structure that provides support, resources and services that are most likely to be needed for hurricane planning, response and recovery. The organizational structure includes representatives from: Facilities/Utilities and Logistics; Protective Services; Medical/Environmental; Communication; NASA Public Affairs and Spaceport Integration.

ESF coordinators report to the DART chief and may be responsible for multiple ESF teams. These representatives serve as much more than points of contact; they are decision makers who are subject to recall by the EOC.

Reopening the center for normal business

The EDT, NEMO and DART chiefs determine when to safely reopen parts — or all — of the center. With the center director's concurrence, the NEMO will declare "all clear."

STORM PLAN BACKGROUND

Kennedy's Tropical Storm and Hurricane Preparation plan was created to protect employees and facilities in the event that sustained winds of 50 knots or greater are predicted. It includes a living document (KDP-KSC-P-3006) that is regularly updated based on lessons learned by the organizations and teams that most directly deal with preparation and execution of the detailed procedure.

The plan's purpose is to produce a coordinated response to a hurricane, with checklists providing basic guidelines for each organization's required actions.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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