

HURRICANES



SAFETY HELP SHEET

Hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th every year, here are few things you should consider before heading out on assignment to cover Hurricanes, Tropical Storms or any other severe weather event.

Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. You may not see hidden hazards under inches or feet of water. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car, while 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

Before you go, Do your research!

There are many "weather forecast" fan pages on facebook and other social platforms, trust official sources. Check and see if there is a public notification alert option for the area you plan to go. Look for the "Emergency Management" website of the area you are targeting. Bookmark these site on your phone or laptop and learn how to quickly search for updated information to have all the necessary information to make safe decisions. Check out the National Hurricane Center for excellent information and predictions. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Pack your go-bag with essential items, Things you will need besides your camera gear.

Think car camping! Pack the essentials but don't forget the obvious. Clothes for bad weather, appropriate footwear, comfort items, medication and toiletries, first aid kit, vehicle emergency supplies including at least two 5-gallon gas jugs and fix-a-flat cans. Consider chest waders, a life jacket and a length of rope if you plan to walk in flooded waters.

Show me the MONEY!

CASH! Greenbacks, Benjamins. Don't count on credit card processing or ATM's working, at all, ever, while covering a storm. Even if there is power where you are, the internet might be down. Money is key to an easy trip. From purchasing gas to buying supplies or a much-needed hotel room. Cold hard cash always works. \$600 per person should be ok.

Communicate & Navigate!

What's going on, where are you? We want to know and so do your editors. How will you communicate or navigate when traditional means are inoperable? Sat Phone? Two-way radio? Different cell phone providers? Sat tracker messaging device like the Garmin InReach? Paper maps, GPS system? If traditional cell calls don't go though, try text messaging. It uses a different part of the cell system to send small packaged messages.