

# May 2019 Update

2019 Hurricane Season, Regional Preparedness, and more!

## 2019 Hurricane Season

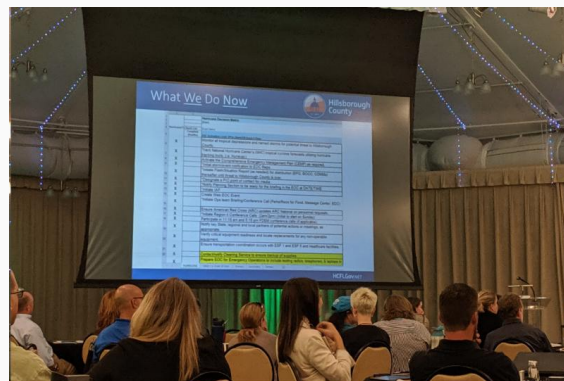
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center has released 2019 Hurricane Season Outlooks, predicting an above-normal season in the [Eastern and Central Pacific](#) and a near-normal season in the [Atlantic](#) (an update to the Atlantic outlook is planned for August, prior to peak season). Visit the [National Hurricane Center website](#) for up to date information on storms throughout the season, including interactive tracking maps with wind and storm surge warnings.

Regardless of how active the 2019 season is, any one storm could have an incredible impact on your facility. The early arrival of Sub-tropical Storm Andrea as the first named storm of the 2019 Atlantic season is a reminder that now is the best time to review your hurricane preparedness plans and reach out to local emergency management about your concerns. Building a relationship with local emergency management ahead of an incident will help you learn what resources might be available and how to request them; disasters begin and end locally which means any request will need to go through your local emergency management.

If you are new to the planning process the [Contingency Planning Modules](#) for Zoos and Aquariums can help you get started, and we welcome you to [contact us](#) with any questions.

## Regional Preparedness for the Exotic Animal Industry

Earlier this month the ZAHP Fusion Center helped facilitate regional preparedness meetings in South Carolina (including North Carolina and Georgia) and Florida as a continuation of the effort to improve coordination and communication in response for the Exotic Animal Industry.



These meetings provided an opportunity for facilities in the region to come together with representatives from state and local agencies to discuss how our industry can better coordinate with emergency management and each other to improve preparedness and response moving forward. Agency presentations covered jurisdictional authority and resource availability, industry professionals spoke about lessons learned and the unique challenges facilities may face in disasters, and break out groups gave neighboring facilities the opportunity to discuss concerns and capabilities with relevant agency representatives. Feedback from these meetings has been overwhelmingly positive with facilities and response agencies alike noting benefits.

A special thank you to Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, SC and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay in Tampa, FL for hosting these events!

## May Preparedness Focus: Community

The focus for May is [community](#). This month consider your contingency plans as they relate to community members that may be in your facility.

Consider:

- How will emergency procedures be communicated to guests?
- Do you have considerations for vulnerable populations that may be on grounds during an incident?
- Are there procedures in place for how to communicate with a large volume of family members and loved ones concerned about guests, employees, and volunteers who were on grounds during an incident?
  - Are there plans in place for reuniting minors with their parents and guardians?

If you are just getting started with planning, consider looking to our [Contingency Planning Modules](#) for more industry specific information. [Do 1 Thing](#), a non-profit organization that aims to build more disaster resilient communities, asks the community to do one "thing" to enhance preparedness each month.

## Better Together

The cover story of the April issue of Connect, [Better Together](#) focuses on collaborative emergency preparedness and response within the managed wildlife community.

Other articles from this issue include [The Road to Recovery](#), which takes a look at resiliency to natural disasters, and [Preparing for High Consequence Diseases](#), written by ZAHP Program Manager, Dr. Yvonne Nadler. Membership is not required to view any of the listed articles.

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## Secure Zoo Strategy Webinar Series

This webinar series introduces Secure Zoo Strategy (SZS), a guide to help facilities develop business continuity plans that address the unique needs of the exotic animal industry in Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks.

While the initial series concluded on April 26th, recordings of each session are available at the links below.

- [Steps 1 & 2](#): Partnerships and Business Model
- [Steps 3 & 4](#): Risk Assessment and Roles for Personnel
- [Step 5](#): Biosecurity Program & Map
- [Steps 6 & 7](#): Surveillance and Operations
- [Steps 8 & 9](#): Media & Communications and Recovery
- [Step 10](#): Facility Readiness Evaluation

Visit the [Secure Zoo website](#) for the full strategy including assessments, worksheets, and additional resources. Please let us know if you have any feedback on how we can improve this tool for the community.

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