



SYDION



# **POTENTIAL DISASTERS:** Why You Need to Keep East Coast Hurricane Season in Your Inventory Management Plans



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02** Introduction
- 03** Current Storm Outlook for this Year's East Coast Season
- 03** Reducing Damages from Hurricanes



---

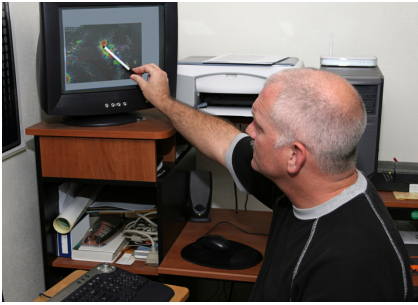
**“If the 1821 Hurricane were to happen today, it would cause 50% more damage than Sandy and potentially cause more than \$100 billion in property losses stemming from storm surge and wind damage.”**

## INTRODUCTION

The specter of hurricane season—which lasts between June 1 and November 30—is now upon the east coast. While it has been underway for several months, October represents its peak. The National Weather Service defines a hurricane as “an intense tropical weather system with well-defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.” Hurricanes are particularly dangerous because they combine strong winds, heavy rains and flooding, and can wreak havoc, especially on unprepared communities. As a hurricane gets closer to the coast, storm surges and high waves lead to coastal inundation, overrunning everything in its course, including beaches, homes and businesses. Moreover, the East Coast has suffered some of the worst storms on record in the last few years, including Hurricane Sandy, which struck on October 29, 2012. Not only did the storm affect many states, New York and New Jersey in particular, it extended all the way to the U.S. Midwest and Canada, and Sandy has cost the U.S. economy \$50 billion in recovery efforts.

While predicting hurricanes is not an exact science, experts, including scientists at the reinsurance company, Swiss Re, often use past storms as a resource to project future weather patterns. Although many viewed Hurricane Sandy as one of the worst storms to affect the region in recent years, we may not be out of the woodwork quite yet, at least if you consider historical data and past storms. In short, the Northwest could be hit with a hurricane whose scope of destruction and economic loss would surpass Sandy’s.

Scientists at Swiss Re conduct simulations of some of the region’s worst historical [natural disasters](#), including the great hurricane of 1821, to predict the kind of damage a similar storm would inflict today. The results are staggering. “If the 1821 Hurricane were to happen today, it would cause 50% more damage than Sandy and potentially cause more than \$100 billion in property losses stemming from storm surge and wind damage,” Andrew Revkin of The New York Times reports, relaying the findings from Megan E. Linkin’s report. Linkin works as a scientist for Swiss Re, and emphasizes a multi-pronged approach to reduce future hurricane-related damages, including increasing coastal community resilience.



**“Hurricane Edouard hit the Atlantic on September 13, representing the first major hurricane in the Atlantic basin since Hurricane Sandy in October 2012.”**

## CURRENT STORM OUTLOOK FOR THIS YEAR’S EAST COAST SEASON

Each year, meteorologists predict the upcoming storm season. For 2014, meteorologists have anticipated an average or below-average hurricane season: In their April report, forecasters William Gray and Phil Klotzbach from the Colorado State University predicted nine named storms and three hurricanes, including one major hurricane.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also predicts a normal hurricane season. Most recently, Hurricane Edouard hit the Atlantic on September 13, representing the first major hurricane in the Atlantic basin since Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Later, by September 18, Edouard was downgraded to a tropical storm, but not before it created dangerous storm surges and surf conditions along the East Coast of the U.S. and Atlantic Canada.

However, this does not negate the importance of preparation efforts. Gerry Bell, the lead hurricane forecaster for the U.S. Climate Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland, in an interview with [Bloomberg News](#), emphasizes the necessity of government, other agencies and individuals engaging in thorough preparation. Bell cautioned: “The season isn’t over and it is not shut down. While it is weaker than average we already had one hurricane strike North Carolina this year. We need people to stay prepared.”

Also, it is important to remember that it takes only one superstorm to disrupt an otherwise quiet season, as was the case with Hurricane Andrew in 1992. A category 5 hurricane, Andrew caused 65 deaths and cost the U.S. nearly 27 billion in damages.

## REDUCING DAMAGES FROM HURRICANES

Agencies of all of sizes need to have systems in place for responding to hurricanes and other natural disasters, while mitigating their potential damages. They need solutions that anticipate needs during [disaster recovery](#), so that they can use their actual personnel and resources most effectively in disaster response efforts. In particular, they have to have solutions in place to effectively manage their deployments, track what materials they are consuming as well as what assets are in play during the response. These are all critical tasks during hurricane disaster response and recovery. Sydion develops software solutions with these goals in mind, specifically designed for public health agencies, hospitals, ems, fire departments and other [emergency preparedness](#) agencies.



---

**“The iCAM software performs a vital function in informing personnel about the real-time availability of needed supplies and tracking the delivery of needed materials in an emergency.”**

Inventory Control & Asset Management (iCAM) allows organizations to get control of their supplies, equipment and inventory. This software performs a vital function in informing personnel about the real-time availability of needed supplies and tracking the delivery of needed materials in an emergency. Through web-based asset-tracking, the software allows organizations to track items at multiple sites and locations within each facility.

It is also vital to have Emergency Management Event Tracking (eMET). This system enables you to take control of your incident scene and ensure that you are administering to the needs of the people there, including patients and others in need of immediate care. The system contains modules for tracking patients, people and inventory. This data is remotely collected via barcode scanner or mag stripe reader equipped handheld units that wirelessly transmit data and camera images to the dashboard.

Managing physical inventory also requires substantial logistics. Sydion assists you at your facility to provide the logistical and technical support needed to organize your materials and help load your inventory into iCAM. We develop and execute the best plan for your physical storage then translate this plan into best practices and SOPs to be used within iCAM.


As Hurricane Sandy and other recent storms demonstrate, hurricanes are devastating events that organizations of all kinds at the federal, state and local level need to be prepared for. **Asset inventory management** is key to the strength of organizations' disaster response and **crisis management** efforts. Public health agencies, hospitals and other emergency preparedness agencies need asset inventory management to track their **disaster preparedness supplies** and manage their deployments so that they can respond effectively to those most in need.



# SYDION

---

Austin, TX

 512.771.1157

 [info@sydion.net](mailto:info@sydion.net)

 [www.sydion.net](http://www.sydion.net)