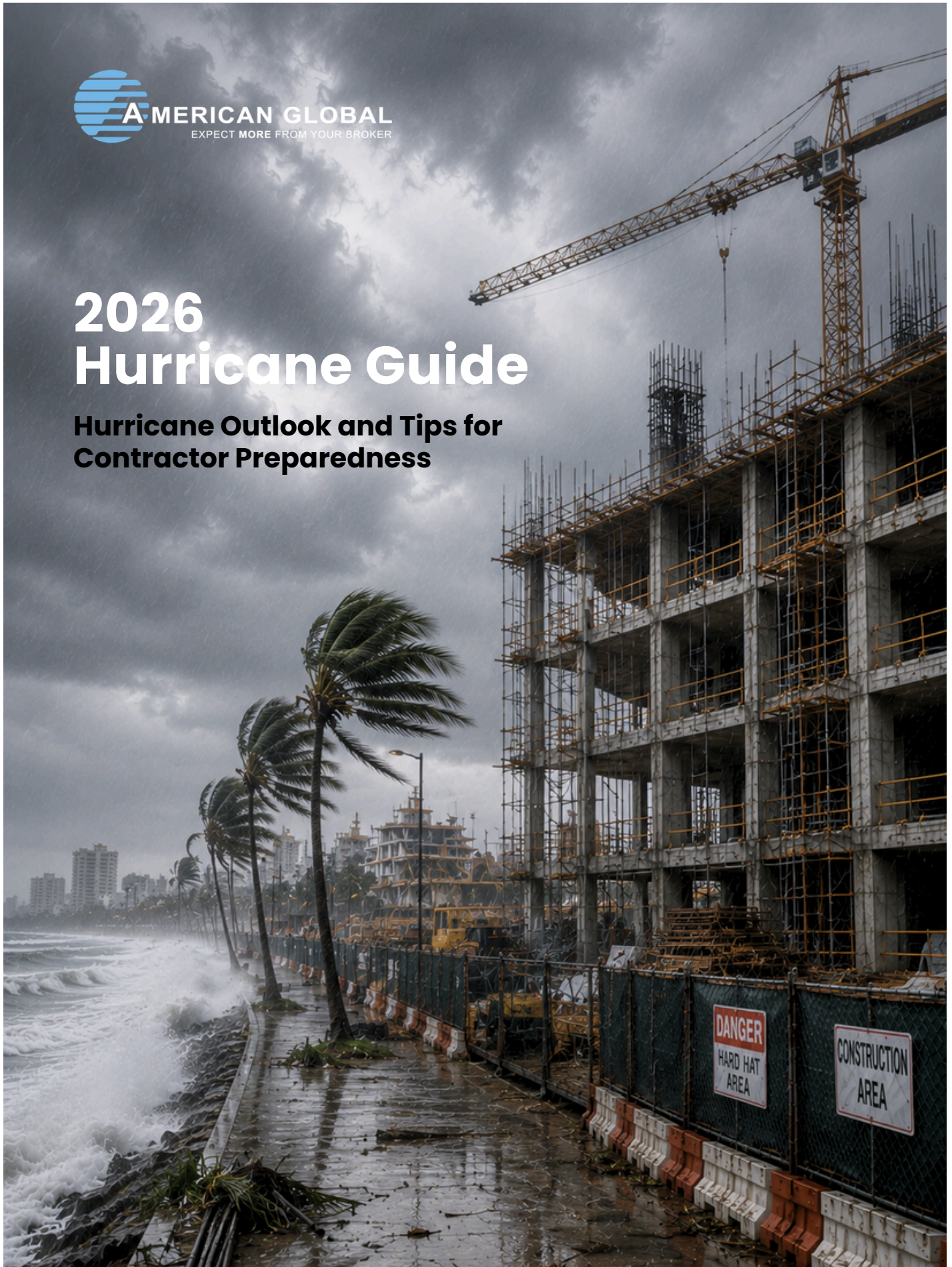




# 2026 Hurricane Guide

**Hurricane Outlook and Tips for  
Contractor Preparedness**



# WHAT TO EXPECT

2026 PREDICTION



## Hurricane Season Warning:

### Lower Outlook Doesn't Mean Lower Risk

After a relatively slow hurricane season in 2025, experts are scaling back predictions for 2026. However, the risk of U.S. impacts remains elevated, particularly during the peak months of June - November. People and business owners from South Texas to Maine should prepare in the same way for every hurricane season, regardless of the seasonal outlook and predictions.

### El Niño Emerges as Key Factor in 2026 Hurricane Outlook

El Niño is one of the primary factors that could lessen the number of storms this season. In a recent update, NOAA stated that the chance of El Niño developing has risen to 62% for June, July, and August.

El Niño is a weather pattern where east-to-west winds in the Pacific Ocean weaken, causing warmer water to pool across the eastern Pacific equatorial region. Typically, the stronger the El Niño, the more shear that occurs in the Atlantic Ocean, according to Weather.com.

According to AccuWeather, "Hurricanes hate shear in the atmosphere, so El Niño occurring during the summer and lasting into the fall can lead to weaker and a lower frequency of hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin."

## AccuWeather Prediction



Named  
Storms

**11-16**



Hurricanes

**4-7**



Major Hurricanes  
(Category 3+)

**2-4**



Direct U.S.  
Impact

**3-5**

# PLAN AHEAD: CONTRACTOR HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS



Creating a structured, multi-phase hurricane preparedness plan is the key to protecting workers, equipment, projects, and financial stability.

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## RISK ASSESSMENT & PLANNING

- Assess site-specific risks (flood zones, wind exposure, cranes)
- Identify critical operations and vulnerable structures

### Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

- Set shutdown triggers (e.g., winds above 40 mph)
- Establish evacuation routes and muster points

### Insurance & Financial Readiness

- Review coverage (builder's risk, liability, equipment)
- Confirm storm deductibles and exclusions
- Document assets with photos, serial numbers, and values

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## WORK SAFETY & COMMUNICATION

- Stop operations early to allow safe evacuation
- Account for all personnel, including subcontractors
- Empower workers with clear “stop work” authority

### Communication Plan

- Use multiple channels (texts, apps, radios)
- Keep emergency contact lists updated
- Coordinate with local emergency officials

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## TRAINING & DRILLS

- Conduct annual hurricane preparedness training
- Run mock shutdown drills
- Train supervisors on emergency decision-making

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## RISK MANAGEMENT & EXPERIENCE MODIFICATION IMPACT

- **Document all safety actions**
- Coordinate with insurance carriers for pre-storm inspections
- Implement formal loss control programs

# PLAN AHEAD: CONTRACTOR HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS



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## EQUIPMENT & HEAVY MACHINERY

### Vehicles & Heavy Machinery

- Move equipment to higher ground
- Fuel and service equipment before shutdown
- Disconnect batteries if flooding is likely

### Critical Systems

- Backup project data (cloud + offsite)
- Protect surveying instruments, GPS units, and electronics

### Bonus ProTips

- Pre-arrange debris removal contracts
- Stage generators and fuel in advance
- Use QR-coded asset tracking for fast insurance claims
- Maintain a “rapid response” vendor list (roofing, electrical, restoration)

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## JOBSITE HARDENING (WHEN STORM IS FORECASTED)

- Secure/remove loose items (lumber, rebar, scaffolding)
- Relocate/anchor toilets, dumpsters, trailers
- Lower/dismantle cranes per guidelines
- Anchor containers and heavy equipment
- Brace incomplete structures
- Add temporary sheathing/waterproofing
- Secure formwork and active pours
- Clear drains and swales
- Install berms/sandbags as needed
- Protect utilities and open trenches

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## OFFICE & SUPPLY CHAIN COORDINATION

### Office Readiness

- Backup servers and accounting systems
- Enable remote work capability

### Vendor/Subcontractor Coordination

- Confirm material delivery delays or rerouting
- Align shutdown procedures across all trades

# PLAN AHEAD: CONTRACTOR HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS



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## SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION RISKS

### Cranes & High-Rise Projects

- Follow engineered tie-down procedures
- Dismantling tower cranes for major storms

### Marine / Coastal Construction

- Secure barges and floating equipment
- Double-anchor systems
- Remove materials from docks and seawalls

### Underground / Utility Work

- Backfill open excavations
- Cap exposed piping
- Protect lift stations and pumps

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## DOCUMENTATION & LEGAL PROTECTION

- Take time-stamped photos/videos of:
  - Entire Jobsite
  - Installed work
  - Stored materials
- Secure permits, plans, and contracts digitally
- Issue formal notices of delay (force majeure clauses)

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## POST STORM RECOVERY PLAN

### Immediate Actions

- Safety inspections before re-entry

### Check for:

- Downed power lines
- Structural instability
- Hazardous material releases

### Damage Assessment

- Document everything before cleanup
- Notify insurers immediately
- Separate storm damage from pre-existing issues

### Restart Strategy

- Prioritize critical path work
- Re-sequence schedules
- Address labor shortages and material delays

