

The exponential effects of overlapping disasters

2020 has shown a propensity for throwing multiple damaging events, compounding the difficulty of planning:

January

- The COVID-19 **pandemic** got a toehold in the US in the first weeks of the year. (New case rates are still growing in Texas and it is predicted that a second wave may occur in the fall.)

April

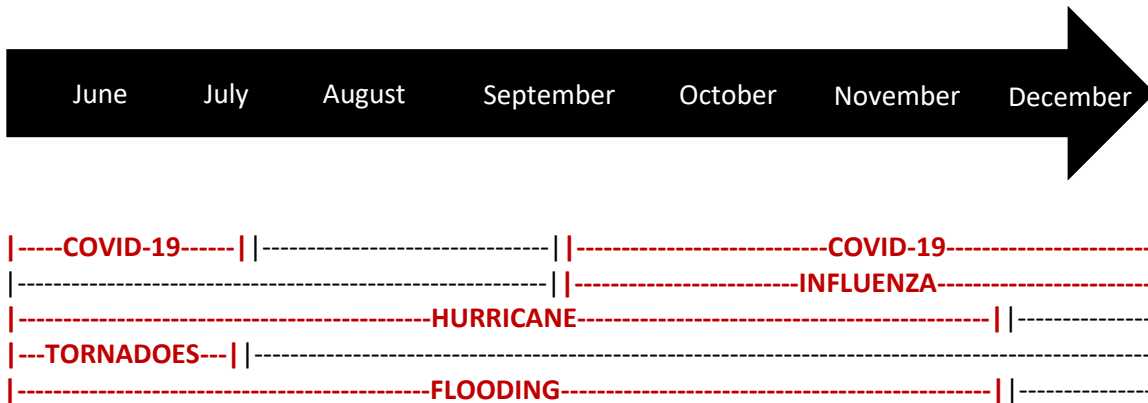
- Above average spring temperatures and precipitation have caused **flooding** across the central and southeastern states.

May

- 517 confirmed **tornadoes** (765 reported) have already occurred, causing 76 deaths - the most since 2011. The killer tornadoes have all occurred in the southeastern states, where hurricane damage is most likely.
- **Civil unrest** actions take place across the country.

June

- The first **tropical storm** began making its way toward the Gulf Coast on the first day of hurricane season.
- *And then there is the introduction of **swarms** of murder hornets in the Pacific Northwest...*



2020 hurricane predictions

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is 60% likely to include above normal activity.

- 13-19 named storms
- 6-10 hurricanes
- 3-6 major hurricanes

This is due to a combination of climate factors including:

- El Nino (hurricane suppressing) shifting toward La Nina
- Warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean
- Nutrient poor water
- Reduced vertical wind sheer
- Weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds
- Enhanced West African monsoons

2020 tropical cyclone names:

Arthur	Hanna	Omar
Bertha	Isais	Paulette
Cristobal	Josephine	Rene
Dolly	Kyle	Sally
Edouard	Laura	Teddy
Fay	Marco	Vicky
Gonzalo	Nana	Wilfred

Preparing for hurricanes during COVID-19

While it is always important to be prepared ahead of time for a significant storm response, the additional effects of the pandemic make it critical to begin as early as possible.

Know your evacuation route

Check with local officials about updated evacuation shelters for this year. You should note that your regular shelter may not be open this year due to COVID-19. If you [evacuate](#) to a community shelter, follow the latest guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

If you are able, bring items that can help protect you and others in the shelter from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer, cleaning materials, and two cloth face coverings per person. Children under 2 years old and people who have trouble breathing should not wear cloth face coverings. While at the shelter, be sure to wash your hands regularly. If possible, be sure to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet of space between you and people who aren't members of your household.

Gather Supplies

Have enough food, water, and other [supplies](#) for every member of your family to last at least 72 hours. Consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors and prescription medications. In addition, it is recommended that you add two cloth face coverings per family member and cleaning items to your kit, like soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, or general household cleaning supplies to disinfect surfaces. After a hurricane, you may not have access to these supplies for days or even weeks. Preparing now ensures that you are well-equipped to stay safe if you need to quickly grab your go kit and evacuate to a community shelter.

As you prepare, be mindful that not everyone can afford to respond by stocking up on necessities. For those who can afford it, making essential purchases in advance will allow for longer time periods between shopping trips and help to protect those who are unable to procure essentials in advance of the pandemic and must shop more frequently.

Make an Emergency Plan

Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands [your hurricane plan](#). Discuss the latest [CDC guidance on COVID-19](#) and how it may affect your hurricane planning. Don't forget a plan for the [office, kids' daycare, and anywhere you frequent](#).

Download the FEMA mobile app

Download the [FEMA mobile app](#) for disaster resources, weather alerts, and safety tips. Available in English and Spanish, the app provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and recovery centers, disaster survival tips, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service.

Visit [Ready.gov](#) for more tips. Disasters won't wait. Neither should you.