



Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo Animal Department Severe Weather and Hurricane Protocol

INTRODUCTION

Due to the geographic location of Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo it is imperative for the safety of our staff, animal collection and facilities that the Zoo maintains a proactive approach to Florida's storm and hurricane season. In Florida, storms can come on rapidly and should never be under-estimated. Though with hurricanes there is normally time to prepare, they are equally unpredictable and can quickly change in direction and strength. Being prepared is a must and is never taken lightly.

The Animal Department has several levels of preparation depending on the storm category, wind strength and projected path. The National Weather Service lists the following storm/hurricane categories:

Tropical Storm Warning: winds 39 to 73 mph

Category 1 Storm: winds 74 to 95 mph, minimal damage

Category 2 Storm: winds 96 to 110 mph, moderate damage

Category 3 Storm: winds 111 to 130 mph, extensive damage

Category 4 Storm: winds 131 to 155 mph, extreme damage

Category 5 Storm: winds greater than 155 mph, catastrophic damage

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

Prior to the beginning of the storm/hurricane season, (May 1st):

- Update all weather protocols.
- Update the employee phone list
- Inventory and re-stock hurricane supplies
- Determine "ride out team" members and update their profiles
- Organize Zoo wide debris clean up
- Ensure generators are working and full of diesel or propane
- Re-affirm needs, expectations and commitment of vendors before and after a hurricane
- Contact city to remove or trim any potentially hazard limbs or trees