



Montgomery Botanical Center

A Center for Plant Research Collections Emphasizing Palms and Cycads

Hurricane Damage Assessment & Response Protocols for MBC's Plant Collections

OCTOBER 2005

The following assessment and response protocols are based on the creation of Emergency Action Teams and Program Assessment Teams, and they should be adhered to following hurricanes and other storms that inflict damage to the plant collections at MBC. They were developed after Hurricane Katrina struck south Florida on 25 August 2005 and were successfully implemented the day after Hurricane Wilma struck almost exactly two months later. Structural damage, road blockages, and general cleanup efforts will be addressed separately.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

1. *Pre-assessment/Triage*

- Time: 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., as soon as possible following the storm
- Biologists + Curators (weekday) or Biologists + Managers + Executive Director (weekend day) quickly tour entire property and triage the Palm, Cycad, and Dicot collections
- Note and prioritize emergencies within each collection

2. *Emergency Action Team Organizational Meeting*

- Time: 8:00 – 8:15 a.m.
- Location: Nell's House garage
- Curators/Biologists summarize priority areas/issues within each collection (including Nursery)
- Emergency Action Teams (specified elsewhere) jointly prioritize emergencies and list them on a dry-erase board in Nell's garage; teams then discuss appropriate responses and coordinate efforts
- Curators/Biologists obtain proper forms and tape for conducting more specific assessments and recording damage data during the emergency response period
- Emergency Chainsaw Team and General Emergency Action Teams (specified elsewhere) assigned tasks based on priority of need

3. *Emergency Action Team Response*

- Time: 8:15 a.m. – Noon
- Emergency Action Teams begin coordinated emergency response and cleanup efforts—working with the respective Curators/Biologists
- Teams report when specific emergency tasks are completed and they get marked off on the board

4. *Emergency Action Team Progress Meeting*

- Time: 12:30 – 12:45 p.m.
- Location: Nell's House garage
- Curators/Biologists summarize progress with respect to addressing priority areas/issues within each collection (including Nursery)
- Emergency Action Teams re-evaluate priority issues/situations, discuss ongoing emergencies, determine appropriate responses, and coordinate efforts for the afternoon
- Note: If emergency response efforts are not completed in one day, additional progress meetings will be held as necessary

5. *Full Assessment of Grounds Collection*

- Time: TBA (will vary with each storm)
- Location: Nell's House garage
- Once **all** emergencies are taken care of, Program Assessment Teams (specified elsewhere) meet with Field Supervisor to obtain proper forms and tape, discuss remaining assessment needs, and begin plant-by-plant damage assessment of entire Grounds Collection
- Emergency Chainsaw Team and General Emergency Action Teams assigned tasks based on priority of need

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Emergency Action Teams and Program Assessment Teams will work with the respective Curators/Biologists throughout the emergency assessment, response, and cleanup process
- These protocols must be necessarily flexible and subject to modification, depending on the type and extent of damage in a given storm—*e.g.*, meeting times and durations are likely to be highly storm-dependent; however, the meetings outlined herein are all extremely important from an organizational perspective, and these protocols need to be followed in the order presented above
- The Imaging Specialist will be on-call to take photos of specific damage within the collections
- The following hurricane recovery supplies need to be stockpiled in advance (by June 1 of each year):
 - Burlap – minimum 30 rolls (if small rolls)
 - Rebar – minimum 250 pieces
 - 2" X 4" wooden braces – minimum ½ pallet
 - Black strap – minimum 20 rolls
 - Nails
 - Shade cloth