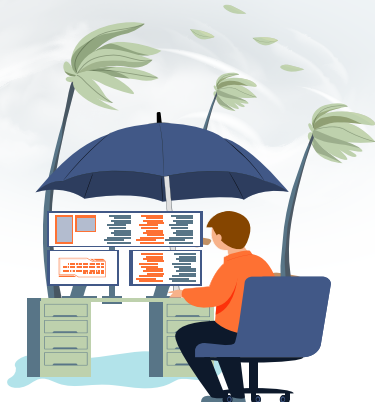


## HURRICANE SEASON 2023

# How to Prepare your Dental Practice for Hurricane Season.



Here are some key action steps to take right now to ensure that you will get back and running as soon as possible after a major storm.

### Step 1 - Back Up Your Data:

Businesses who utilize an established data backup procedure will always recover much more quickly than those who are reactionary. If a business is just getting started with a backup plan, the first step is to identify the business' essential data that needs to be backed up. Hurricanes and tropical storms can put access to your data out of commission for a day, a week, or permanently, so this must be done in advance. HTI recommends that full backups are performed on a daily basis at a minimum. Data should be stored in the cloud to keep it safely removed from the physical location. The consistency and reliability offered by an offsite infrastructure approach can be invaluable in the days following a hurricane.

### Step 2 - Protect from Water and Wind:

If a business is located in a flood zone, and a hurricane has a potential to impact the area, we recommend protecting all IT equipment. When a major storm is predicted, be sure to elevate computers, printers, servers, and other network devices off of the floor. For high winds, move computers away from the windows.

### Step 3 - Protect from Power Issues:

Power outages and surges also cause issues for IT equipment. Servers and computers should be plugged into an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) - to allow them to keep running for a short time when the primary power source is lost. This helps to maintain data integrity and provides the greatest possible access during recovery.

### Step 4 - Seamlessly Transition to VoIP Phone System:

During most natural disasters, there is a percentage of dental practices that lose power. If a dental practice stores all of its data, phone system and other critical infrastructure on-premise, they can't connect with customers until power returns. These power outages can remain in effect for several days and even up to a week or longer, depending on the extent of the damage caused by the natural disaster. The problem is that this forces dental practices to remain shut down, even in the very likely scenario that all employees mobilize, avoid the disaster and are able to continue working from remote locations. One major reason why VoIP phone systems have become so popular in the recent era is because they instantly and seamlessly reroute calls to staff, so that dental practices retain their ability to stay connected to patients. This ensures that the dental practice can continue to operate, even if power has been turned off and they don't subject themselves to unnecessary financial losses associated with inoperability.

### After the Storm:

Initiate damage assessment by taking note of the condition of equipment. If it is visibly damaged or appears to be wet, DO NOT plug the equipment in or turn it on. Then, verify electrical integrity because computer equipment should not be turned on if electrical power is unstable. Finally, verify proper operation by returning the computer to its original location and reattach all peripherals. Plug in all power cords and turn the computer on. Take note of error messages, write them down and then call our Help Desk.

There is absolutely no reason that dental practice should go out of business as the result of a major storm. HTI is committed to helping clients protect their business and advising them about safeguarding their dental practice from weather-related disasters.

Learn More!

(877) 222-1508  
connect@hticonsultants.com

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