Lessons Learned in Emergency Preparation and Response

Paul Anderson
President & CEO
Port Tampa Bay
Hurricane resiliency has been a top priority the past five years.

Each year Port Tampa Bay hosts a region-wide hurricane exercise with first responders, tenants, federal, state, and county agencies.

We were very cognizant of the role Port Tampa Bay plays as the delivery point for all of the gasoline, diesel and jet fuel being shipped into West Central Florida.
Earlier in the summer of 2017, Port leaders discussed updated plans with suppliers, tenants and first responder agencies.

Emergency management and command staff from more than a dozen local agencies reviewed and strengthened our hurricane preparedness procedures.
Riding out the Storm

- Port staff monitored Hurricane Irma at multiple locations such as the port off-site operations center in Winter Haven, Florida and the Icebreaker ship, AIVIQ, which was located at the Port.

- This allowed my team to have constant communications with the Governor, Mayor, Port Commissioners, tenants and stakeholders without losing power.
Icebreaker Command and Control Room
All of the ports in Florida shared crucial information during the daily calls with the Governor and his emergency management staff. This allowed the Governor to know the concerns we were having, which prompted him to send troopers to the Port.

The Vice President of Security, Mark Dubina, deployed with Port Security Officers and Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Deputies to the State Fair Grounds, where the PTB Mobile Command Center and Security Vehicles were stationed.
• During the course of the hurricane in the days leading up to the storm, Port Tampa Bay was thrust into the national spotlight.

• We sent constant media updates about our preparedness, particularly fuel storage, affected cruise lines, and the changing of Port conditions as determined by the United States Coast Guard.
Post Storm Re-Entry & Refueling

- Within hours after the hurricane passed, Port Tampa Bay focused on getting fuel out.
- Using all of our resources, we worked with the Governor, the Department of Emergency Management and key industry leaders.
- Hundreds of tanker trucks filled up and delivered gas statewide and to the southeast region of the country.
Post Storm Re-Entry & Refueling
Recommendations

• Maintaining an updated list of contact information of tenants

• Flexibility is key as you adjust to the storm path, strength, surge, wind direction and expected rainfall totals

• Review with your team about how to improve and tighten response and coordination