EXIGO FUELS FLORIDA · COMMERCIAL FUEL DELIVERY · SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
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Hurricane Fuel Preparedness Checklist for Florida Commercial Operators

> **Every hurricane season, Florida operators discover the 60-hour fuel gap the hard way.** Retail pumps run dry inside 4 hours once a named storm enters the NHC cone and mandatory evacuation is declared. Grid power then fails, and even stations with fuel in the tank cannot dispense it. Contracted bulk customers who scheduled a pre-storm top-off at 72 hours out keep operating through landfall and the first 96 hours of recovery. Customers who did not, do not. This checklist is built on the actual patterns Exigo Fuels sees every hurricane season across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties — specific numbers, real NFPA codes, honest constraints.

Phase 1 — Pre-Season (June 1 onward): The Foundation Month

The Atlantic hurricane season officially runs June 1 to November 30. Pre-season is when the relationships, inspections, and documentation get locked in — not when the cone lights up.

- [ ] **Bulk tank inspection and annual maintenance.** Above-ground and underground tanks both need visual inspection for corrosion, weld seam integrity, vent condition, and fill cap seating. Pull a lab sample for water (ASTM D6304), particulate (ASTM D6217), and microbial growth (ASTM D6469).
- [ ] **Fuel polishing service.** If lab sample exceeds ASTM D975 limits — water above 200 ppm, particulate above 18 mg/L, or any microbial colony count — schedule polishing in May or early June. Takes 4-8 hours per main tank.
- [ ] **Generator load test documentation.** NFPA 110 Level 1 requires monthly no-load exercise and an annual load-bank test to 30% minimum. File records with your facilities binder.
- [ ] **Fuel supplier contract — relationship established, not ad-hoc.** Verify your supplier offers a documented emergency-response tier structure (1-hour critical, 2-hour urgent, 4-hour standard). Contracted status is the only meaningful differentiator during landfall.
- [ ] **Emergency-response tier selection.** 1-hour is for hospitals, life-safety, and data center main tanks; 2-hour is business-critical commercial; 4-hour is planned commercial refills.
- [ ] **Contact list update.** Fuel dispatcher direct line, generator service, electrical contractor, AHJ contact, internal facilities chain. Phone numbers, not generic email. Test every number in June.
- [ ] **DEF supply plan (Tier 4 generators only).** Exigo does not deliver DEF — confirm alternative source with committed delivery capacity through hurricane season.
- [ ] **Site access credentials for your fuel supplier.** Gate codes, after-hours contacts, any post-storm law enforcement access documents.

Phase 2 — 72 Hours Before Landfall: The Decision Point

Once the NHC issues a watch and your county falls inside the 5-day cone, you are on the clock. The 72-hour mark is the last window where capacity is still reasonably available.

- [ ] **Monitor NHC cone-of-uncertainty updates every 6 hours.** 5am, 11am, 5pm, 11pm advisories. If county is inside the cone and center line is within 150 miles, initiate your plan. Do not wait for the 48-hour advisory.
- [ ] **Top off main tanks to 100%, not 90%, not 95%.** NFPA 110 Level 1 says "maintain at or above 100%" for hurricane posture. Full tanks also reduce condensation.
- [ ] **Schedule pre-storm top-off with your contracted supplier.** Call dispatch directly. Confirm tier. Lock in a delivery window 48-24 hours before projected landfall. This is the load that keeps you running.
- [ ] **Verify on-site storage capacity for full runtime + 50% buffer.** Example: 500 kW genset at 75% load = ~36 gal/hr. For 96 hours: 3,456 gal + 1,728 gal buffer = 5,184 gal minimum on site.
- [ ] **Generator test under load — not no-load.** Run at 50%+ of rated output for 30+ minutes. No-load exercises mask injector and turbo faults.
- [ ] **Confirm driver access credentials for post-storm delivery.** Gate codes active, security contact reachable, Florida DEM access documentation on file.
- [ ] **DEF reservoir check (Tier 4 generators).** Top the DEF reservoir now. Exigo does not deliver DEF.
- [ ] **Communicate internally.** Facilities director, on-call engineer, leadership know fuel posture, refill trigger, and emergency dispatch contact.

Phase 3 — 24 Hours Before Landfall: Lock It Down

Last 24 hours are for closing gaps, not top-offs. Dispatch capacity is mostly gone; retail queues are 90 minutes deep.

- [ ] **Final fuel top-off — if dispatch capacity still available.** Call dispatch. Some suppliers suspend delivery inside 24 hours of projected landfall for driver safety.
- [ ] **Generator transfer switch test.** Exercise ATS in both directions under actual generator power. Sticky transfer switches catch facilities on day 1 of the outage.
- [ ] **Tank inspection for leaks, vents, caps.** Walk every tank. Vent caps torqued, fill caps seated, sight gauges unbroken, spill buckets drained.
- [ ] **Retail pump queue avoidance — final warning.** Hold fleet vehicles in your yard with what is in the tank. T-24h retail pumps are backed up; T-12h empty or shut down.
- [ ] **Emergency dispatch contact verification.** Primary phone + backup method (SMS, account email). Cell networks saturate during landfall.
- [ ] **Site access plan for post-storm entry.** Which gate opens, which approach road floods first, which contact has keys, which route avoids low-lying sections.

Phase 4 — During the Storm: Stand Down Safely

Operational window closes when sustained winds exceed 45 mph, lightning is within 10 miles, or AHJ declares shelter-in-place.

- [ ] **No lightning-phase refueling.** NFPA 30A §6.3.4 prohibits transfer operations during electrical storm activity. Not a suggestion.
- [ ] **Runtime tracking and consumption logging.** Log hours every 4 hours. Calculate actual gal/hr from tank level drop. Write it in a physical log — BMS may be offline.
- [ ] **Forecast runtime remaining.** Compare to projected grid restoration timeline. If forecast runtime < projected outage, plan emergency refill call for earliest safe window after the storm.
- [ ] **When to call for emergency dispatch.** 60% tank for 72+ hour outage. 40% for 24-48 hour outage. Earlier if flood zone. Never wait until below 20%.

Phase 5 — Post-Landfall (0-24h): First Response

First 24 hours after eye passage are the most logistically tight. Suppliers run priority queues — contracted first, by tier, by accessibility.

- [ ] **Site access assessment.** Before calling for refill, confirm site is reachable. Photo to dispatch if conditions questionable.
- [ ] **Fuel consumption actuals vs projected.** Reconcile log against tank level. If actual > projected (typical when cooling load spikes post-storm), update refill trigger upward.
- [ ] **Tank inspection — contamination from debris or water intrusion.** Vent caps, fill caps, spill buckets. If suspect water, pull sample before running further.
- [ ] **Emergency refill trigger.** 60% for 72h+ outage, 40% for 24-48h. Call dispatch with tank level, site access, and runtime in first sentence.
- [ ] **Priority queue for contracted clients.** First 72 hours post-landfall, Exigo runs contracted-customer routes in tier order. New customer requests cannot be accommodated in this window.
- [ ] **Fuel quality check before extended runtime.** Water intrusion, visible debris, or unusual consumption = pull a sample before day 2. Fuel polishing may be needed mid-event.

Phase 6 — Extended Outage (24-96h): Sustained Operations

Past 24 hours, immediate dispatch crush eases. Fuel-quality risk and crew fatigue become the dominant failure modes.

- [ ] **Scheduled refill cadence.** Most 96-hour outages end up on 48-hour refill cycles for a 500 kW genset with 2,000-3,000 gallon main tanks.
- [ ] **Grid restoration signal monitoring.** FPL outage map, local utility dashboard, AHJ bulletins. When restoration moves inside 12 hours, communicate with dispatch.

- [ ] **Contamination risk mounting.** Open tanks breathe humidity. Every refill event introduces potential debris. Sample any tank open to atmosphere during storm surge.
- [ ] **Crew fatigue management.** Rotate on-call staff. The person awake 36 hours will misread a tank level. Build shift rotation into plan before storm, not during.

Phase 7 — Recovery (Grid Restored): Before Standing Down

Grid restoration is not the end of the fuel event. A generator that ran 72+ hours continuously has been drawing from a tank that may have accumulated sediment or water during the event.

- [ ] **Final fuel top-off before returning to scheduled delivery.** Bring main tank back to 100% on next scheduled delivery.
- [ ] **Fuel polishing — recommended after extended runtime.** Any tank that saw 72+ hours continuous draw, water intrusion, or unusual consumption should be scheduled for polishing. Sediment stirs up during high-draw operations.
- [ ] **Generator post-event service.** Oil sample, coolant, air filter, fuel filter replacement. Book in first 30 days — generator service providers are slammed too.
- [ ] **Documentation.** Runtime hours, fuel consumed, refill dates and volumes, issues encountered (contamination, transfer switch, DEF supply).
- [ ] **Debrief with facilities team.** What worked, what did not, where the plan broke down. Cheaper in November than rediscovering the gap next September.

Commercial Fuel Emergency — When to Call Exigo Fuels
24/7/365 dispatch for contracted Southeast Florida clients. 1h/2h/4h tiers.
(305) 900-6725

Emergency Dispatch Policy

- [ ] **Active contracted clients:** 24/7 priority dispatch — 1-hour critical (hospitals, life-safety, data centers), 2-hour urgent (business-critical), 4-hour standard (planned refills). Tiers hold through hurricane conditions.
- [ ] **New customers:** We cannot promise emergency dispatch if not pre-onboarded. Hard rule — once the NHC cone is issued, our capacity commitment to contracted customers fills the route plan.
- [ ] **The reason:** An operator who contracted in May and paid for tier-1 critical dispatch has earned the 1-hour window. We do not break that commitment.
- [ ] **Pre-onboarding is 15 minutes.** Call (305) 900-6725 now — in May, not during the storm.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much fuel should we have on site before a hurricane?

Plan for 96 hours of runtime plus 50% buffer. For a 500 kW genset at 75% load: 36 gal/hr × 96 hr × 1.5 = ~5,200 gallons on site. Size against your own generator curve and load.

Can we get fuel delivery during the storm?

No. NFPA 30A prohibits fuel transfer during active lightning and high-wind conditions. Our operating window closes when sustained winds exceed 45 mph or lightning is within 10 miles of dispatch.

What happens to retail pump availability during hurricane landfall?

Retail diesel depletes inside 4 hours of a named storm entering the NHC cone. Pump electronics then fail with grid loss. Operators dependent on retail pumps experience 60-hour fuel gaps routinely.

Does Exigo deliver to new customers during a hurricane?

No. Contracted customers get priority dispatch. New customers who call after the NHC cone is issued cannot be promised emergency dispatch. Pre-onboard in May.

When should we call for emergency refuel after a hurricane?

60% tank for 72+ hour outage; 40% for 24-48 hour outage. Earlier if your site is in a flood zone. Never below 20% — at that point you are gambling on truck availability.

What fuel storage tanks need inspection before hurricane season?

Every AST, UST, day tank, belly tank, generator base tank on site. Vent caps, fill caps, sight gauges, float switches, BMS sensors. Lab sample on any tank sitting more than 12 months.

Do standby generators need a different fuel spec for hurricane runtime?

No — ASTM D975 ULSD (<15 ppm sulfur) is the standard regardless of season. The operational difference is fuel age and polishing cadence, not spec.

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