

Operational Decision Support: Hurricane Liaison Team

Operational decision support for the National Hurricane Program (NHP) is provided through the FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) to federal and state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) emergency managers.

The HLT is composed of two full-time FEMA Liaison Officers permanently embedded with forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Hurricane Center (NHC) to ensure integration with NHC operations and to maintain direct access to forecasters. This co-location promotes the necessary relationships to facilitate the rapid exchange of critical information between the NHC and the emergency management community.

The team works with the NHC to monitor potential threats in the tropics and answer questions from federal and SLTT emergency management partners. Once a credible threat is identified, the HLT can deploy additional team members, including FEMA Regional Hurricane Program Managers, to the NHC to support an increased need for information. The FEMA Regional Hurricane Program Manager for the affected region(s) plays an important role in supporting their region, states and locals because of their unique local knowledge and relationships.

The HLT facilitates critical hurricane information sharing between the NHC and the emergency management community through video teleconferences and briefings with federal and SLTT partners. The team assists emergency managers with the application of forecast products, Hurricane Evacuation Study information and HURREVAC. The support the HLT provides reinforces confidence in emergency management decisions and ensures a common forecast picture across FEMA, federal partners and SLTT emergency managers involved in the hurricane response.

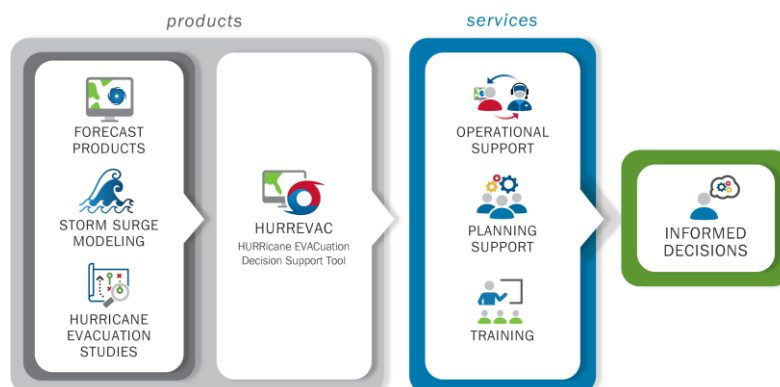


Figure 1: NHP Products and Services lead to informed operational decisions by stakeholders



Operational Decision Support and the HLT play a critical role in the application of NHP resources. It is one of the seven components of the NHP: Storm Surge Risk Products; Hurricane Evacuation Studies and Evacuation Planning; HURREVAC; Training for Emergency Managers; Hurricane Liaison Team Operational Decision Support; Stakeholder Engagement; and Post-Storm Assessments.

For more information about the National Hurricane Program, visit [Hurricane Planning and Response | FEMA.gov](#) or email NHP@fema.dhs.gov.