

Case Study Gannett

USA TODAY, America's largest daily newspaper, has covered plenty of hurricane disaster stories over the years. Thankfully, it has a good story to tell about its own firsthand experience with major hurricanes.

In the fall of 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast of the United States. But, Gannett's Fort Myers, Fla., USA, facility, where USA TODAY and a local newspaper are produced, was well-prepared.

"We took all the necessary pre-storm precautions," explained Mike Monscour, Gannett's vice president of operations. "That included cleaning up loose material on the grounds, trimming dead branches from trees, and, in some cases, putting shutters up on windows."

And it paid off. Gannett suffered no significant damage from either Katrina or Rita. The success of 2005 had a lot to do with the measures FM Global helped Gannett take in 2004.



"Our Fort Myers campus consists of a half-dozen connected buildings," Monscour continued. "During the spring of 2004, several projects were underway, including a new roof replacement and new building construction."

Upon visiting the site, FM Global experts found that the roof had not been properly installed and would not withstand a powerful storm. So, FM Global recommended the roofing contractor return to the facility and correct the work. FM Global developed a retrofit solution, and within a month, the roof was repaired.

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— Mike Monscour
Vice President of Operations,
Gannett

Later that year, four major hurricanes barreled through the Florida area, but Gannett weathered them all with virtually no property damage. If something did go wrong, they also had a windstorm plan in place, so they could resume operations as quickly as possible.

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