

SAFETY ALERT

Hurricane Preparation and Response

Protecting Your Employees



Storm Preparation / Safety Tips

Just as you prepare your home and family for an impending storm or hurricane, it's important to prepare your workplace and jobsites. Planning ahead now can make a big difference in how well workplaces and jobsites fair during a storm. Employers should prepare a "Storm Preparedness Plan" for each workplace, job site or project in advance. Employees should be trained to monitor weather conditions and understand their company's plan and policies related to weather events at their workplace and while performing field work.

Fixed Workplace Employees

Preparing for a storm or weather event:

- Follow the weather in all worksite locations.
- Know, understand, and communicate company policy regarding weather events to field employees; they may contact you for direction (especially new employees).
- Know safe locations within your building to gather during weather events.
- Check batteries in emergency lighting and exits.
- Check/replenish flashlights, emergency kits, safety equipment, and materials.
- Prepare a several day supply of all essential workplace materials and store it off-site to allow for emergency use if needed.
- Store important documents in a high, safe place, where neither water nor wind can damage them.
- Gather and distribute the phone numbers of all key personnel and both state and local emergency agencies.
- Do not attempt to travel to or from your workplace during weather events.



Field Employees

Helpful hints for job site protection include:

- Follow your company guidelines as they relate to working during weather events and do not attempt to work through them.
- When sufficient notice is provided, secure all company property and materials as instructed and follow company policy.
- When working outside, monitor weather daily and come prepared for the weather and temperatures you will be exposed to. Various free weather apps are available on your phones, many offer weather alerts to inform you of quickly changing or severe weather in your area.
- Clean all exterior areas of the workplace to remove potential for flying debris.

After The Weather Event Has Passed:

- Do not return to your workplace until cleared to return by your employer or whoever controls the location you report to (business owner, general contractor, supervisor, or management representative).
- Follow company procedure related to evaluating potential hazards that are now present at your work site due to the weather event.
- Do not enter a space that has any sign of not being structurally sound. If in doubt, stay out until it can be professionally evaluated.
- Avoid direct contact with unstable surfaces or debris piles.
- Do not return to work if there are uncontrolled hazards.
- Assume all power lines are energized. Do not enter any space that still contains flood waters until you are 100% sure that the electricity is off and will remain off.
- Do not enter any space where there is a natural-gas odor.
- Do not work in poorly ventilated areas that may be subject to emissions from gasoline, diesel, or propane-powered generators.
- Perform any and all work site / job site cleanup in accordance with your supervisor's direction.
- Contact a company manager if you feel it is unsafe to work at the job site or workplace.

If you need additional assistance, please contact your FHM Risk Management Consultant or by calling (904) 854-2762.

For additional safety information, visit www.fhmic.com and click on the 'SAFETYnet' tab for the latest addition to FHM Safety Tools. FHM Safety Tools allows our policyholders to access a vast library of safety and training materials on topics specific to your industry.