

Compilation of Construction Site Hurricane Preparation Actions

Reference the Disaster Contractor Network (DCN)

www.dcnonline.org

Communication issues include:

- Determining everyday business functions dependent on voice or data communications
- Determination of backup systems
- Prioritization of restoration if systems go down in a disaster

Safety considerations:

- Evacuation of your facilities
- Refuge of Last Resort
- Sheltering in Place Procedures
- Accountability
- Brief and train employees on procedures

Property protection issues include:

- Facilities
- Equipment

Facility Mitigation:

- Storm-water mitigation
- Windborne debris
- Lay-down hazards

Recovery Issues:

- Contractual arrangements for post-disaster needs
- Business resumption insurance
- Document assets
- Explore alternate facilities
- Ensure corporate bylaws cover continuity of management

What systems and procedures could you not do business without?

- Accounting systems
- Records
- Customer contacts
- Contracts

Damaged Structures

- Evaluate a structure before entering
- Walls, ceilings, floors can collapse
- Protruding debris can cause wounds
- Personal safety items can safeguard your employees, e.g., leather boots with steel shank and slip-resistant soles, sturdy gloves, eye protection, etc.

If you or your employees encounter hazardous materials:

- Stay upwind
- Isolate the area
- Warn others in the vicinity
- Report the incident to local experts

Contamination

- Impact areas are often dirty and infectious
- Clean water systems can be compromised
- Stagnant water can breed insects and disease
- Vaccinations for all work crew members is a good idea

Adverse Weather

- High winds can blow debris or collapse previously damaged structures
- Heat stress and exposure may be a greater risk when working in conditions where there is a shortage of water and ice.
- One of the leading injuries after hurricanes are from heat stress and over exertion.

There are some things not to do around damaged power-lines:

- Don't drive under sagging power lines
- Don't fuel your vehicles around downed power lines
- Don't approach or move downed power lines
- Don't approach power lines near standing water

Reference the Emergency Management Guide for Business & Industry (FEMA)

www.fema.gov/pdf/library/bizindst.pdf

- Establish facility shutdown procedures.
- Make plans for communicating with employee's and their families before and after the hurricane.
- Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio and battery backup.
- Survey your facility (site) to protect equipment. (also survey for lay-down hazards such as towers and trees as well as anything that can be picked up by high winds and cause a windborne debris hazard).
- Protect windows with no less than 5/8" marine plywood.
- Consider backup systems like:
 - Power
 - Pumps
 - Lighting
- Secure and move vital business/construction records/computers to a place of safety.

Reference the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)

<http://www.flash.org/>

(Hurricane Flash Card for Homeowners)

Hurricanes

Preparing your home for a hurricane can be as easy as the A-B-C's!

ANCHOR

- Bring anything from the yard that could become wind-borne inside – ask neighbors to do the same.
- Replace gravel/rock-landscaping material with fire treated, shredded bark to reduce damage.
- Trim and anchor down foliage.
- Make sure your home has a wall to foundation (anchor bolts/re-bar) connection.

BRACE

- Bolt all doors with foot and head bolts with a minimum one-inch bolt throw length.
- Reinforce the garage door and tracks with center supports*
- Brace all gable end framing with horizontal and/or diagonal braces.
- *Approximately 80% of residential hurricane wind damage starts with wind entry through garage doors.

COVER

- Cover all large windows, doors, especially patio doors with securely fastened, impact-resistant shutters with proper mounting fixtures, or replace them with impact-resistant laminated window and door systems if feasible.
- Make sure all doors and windows are properly caulked and/or weather-stripped.
- Install roof covering that is rated for hurricane force winds.

STRAP

- Harness any free-standing fixtures in your yard.
- Strap rafters/trusses to walls with hurricane straps/clips.