



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

Hurricane season is upon us, and weather has a big impact on how we work safely on our job sites. High winds and heavy rainfall are components of the weather that can pose many hazards for workers in the construction industry. Our task is to protect workers and the public from hazards on construction sites, provide securement and facilitate safe passage.

Before the Storm

First and foremost, a risk assessment of the construction site to determine what potential hazards exist, in the event of a forecasted hurricane, must be conducted.

Hazards created by high winds and heavy rainfall are plentiful and you should consider the following basics:

- Prevention
 - Monitor the weather to determine the time the storm will arrive in your area.
 - Consider stopping work during the storm.
- Site housekeeping
 - Consider all objects a potential projectile.
 - Tie down or move all potential projective objects inside.
 - Disconnect electrical equipment that could be impacted by water/flooding. Use GFCI where required.
 - Move any objects well away from power lines.

- Structural damage
 - Remove items from rooftops.
 - Dismantle scaffolding. Where this is not possible ensure that any hoarding is able to withstand potentially induced loads. Consult with manufacturer's specifications or seek the direction of a professional engineer.
 - Dismantle cranes.
 - Move vehicles from the open and park alongside building.
 - Check fencing integrity.
 - Remove items from trenches (in case of cave-in).

After the Storm

- Conduct post storm assessment to identify any damage or additional hazards that arose during the storm.
- Walk cautiously in wet or muddy conditions. Consider hazards that may be hidden or present in standing water, including electricity.
- Evaluate ground conditions prior to operating equipment.
- Inspect trenches and utilize trench boxes.
- If scaffolding et. Were not dismantled, inspect to determine that all components are still in place and that they are still safe to use.
- Inspect areas where materials have been stored to determine the stability of the piles.

Having a plan in place is critical in reducing the risk to workers when there is a major storm. High winds and heavy rainfall are key factors in what job tasks can commence daily and/or what precautions must be in place prior to starting a job.