



Hurricane Preparedness for Businesses and Construction Sites

Hurricane season is June 1, 2019 - November 30, 2019. Those located in areas that could potentially be impacted by a hurricane should be prepared and have a plan in place. Plans should be activated upon hurricane prediction and before a hurricane makes land fall. Business and project locations that are not on the coast also need to take precautions and prepare due to the path of the hurricane and the related wind, rain, and flooding. Plans can start with basic actions to protect business continuation such as:

- Backing up your server and computers. In addition, possibly having a backup server located in another state.
- Protect property with photographs and videos and by securing all materials.
- Relocating company vehicles and equipment out of the projected path or to higher ground to prevent auto and inland marine losses.
- Develop a hurricane preparedness checklist for the business and employees.

As the hurricane draws near, there are additional items to be reviewed. Listed below are checklists specifically related to construction site(s) and materials:

72 Hour Checklist

- Confirm that all emergency contact information is current (i.e.) phone numbers, email addresses etc.
- Verify that all erosion and sediment control devices are in place and meet adequate standards.
- Verify that all storage and office trailers are correctly tied down.
- Confirm all pumps and generators are in working order.
- Prioritize work-plan to minimize any open excavations, loose formwork.
- Schedule trash dumpsters to be emptied.
- Ensure that the jobsite weather radio is working and has back up batteries.
- Ensure there is sufficient supply of banding, clips, duct tape, tarps and sandbags as well as the manpower to accomplish preparations.
- Ensure that there is sufficient room to lay crane booms down.

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48 Hour Checklist

- Review 72 hour checklist again.
- Notify owners of unsecured trailers and storage containers to anchor them or remove them from the site.
- Review all scaffolding. Remove, stack and band planks, secure scaffolding or take it down. Verify that all equipment is fueled and all storage cans topped off and secure to prevent contamination of soil or wetlands.
- Begin banding loose materials.
- Review site drainage patterns and relocate materials stored in low lands.
- Ensure all hazardous materials cannot contaminate water (hurricanes can produce 20 – 30 inches of rain). Store materials high and dry.
- Remove screening on fences, signs etc.
- Ensure there are enough computer disks to back up files.

24 Hour Checklist

- Review 48 hour checklist.
- Document the status of the project with pictures.
- Back-up all computer files on diskette and store them in a dry secure place.
- Secure all windows with plywood or tape and move all items vulnerable to water damage away from windows.
- Lower crane booms.
- Remove or anchor all trailers and storage containers that are not secured.
- Remove all non-essential barricades. Sandbag or tie down essential barricades.
- All incomplete piping is to be capped to prevent sand infiltration.
- Tie down all materials and place weight of some sort (rebar, block etc.) on items that can be physically moved.
- Tie netting on all trash containers that are not empty.
- Review stored materials for potential of windblown rain damage.
- Confirm the inventory of all equipment in the office and in the field.
- Take pictures of site conditions for insurance purposes.

12 Hour Checklist

- Review 24-hour checklist.
 - Place the tower crane in weathervane mode.
 - Turn off water, power, gas, etc. at source.
 - Evacuate site.
 - Take pictures of any changes to the construction site conditions for insurance purposes.
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Please visit the following links for additional information for Hurricane Preparedness information.

<https://hurricanesafety.org/prepare/prepare-your-business/>

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1510690297358-1e6c4874b251c3022ac4b57b0369e2da/Hurricane Ready Business Toolkit Interactive Final 508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1510690297358-1e6c4874b251c3022ac4b57b0369e2da/Hurricane%20Ready%20Business%20Toolkit%20Interactive%20Final%20508.pdf)

<https://www.score.org/resource/hurricane-preparedness-checklist>

<https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/hurricane/preparedness.html>

<https://constructionexec.com/article/top-10-hurricane-preparedness-practices-for-construction-sites>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/index.html>

