



TIP SHEET:

Before a Hurricane

Hurricane season is from June 1st to November 30th. If you operate near hurricane prone areas, have a plan of what to do before, during and after a hurricane strikes. The following tips and actions may be helpful to consider before a hurricane.

Action to take before the storm season

- Establish a Hurricane Emergency Response team and keep the contact list up to date.
- Service your generators and other back-up power equipment regularly.
- Identify alternative means of transportation and alternative routes for all critical personnel, services, suppliers, contractors, etc., and establish relationships with lease and rental companies.

Building and Structures:

- Review the structural integrity of each building and structure, including rotted wood, rusted metal, physical damage, loose/missing fasteners, etc. Replace or repair all damaged, missing or compromised components.
- Inspect roof coverings, perimeter flashings, gutters, drains, ventilators and other roof-mounted equipment.
- Inspect exterior wall coverings for attachment, damage and weather tightness.
- Check and seal any other possible water entry points.
- Purchase and store lumber and other exterior materials such as window coverings.

Fire Protection:

- Obtain a scaled blueprint of the facility that identifies the location of all fire protection and other emergency equipment; keep it offsite.
- Inspect fire water tanks for structural integrity.
- Ensure that all fire protection equipment is serviced and operational.

Emergency Communication:

- Make arrangements for several forms of emergency communications including cellular phones, two-way radios, ham radio operators, etc.

When a storm is imminent

Assemble the hurricane emergency response team, supplies and equipment at a designated safe location on site.

Consider the following:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps and rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber and nails | <input type="checkbox"/> Manual and power tools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandbags | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovels, axes, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable pumps and hoses | <input type="checkbox"/> Saws and chainsaws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency generators | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency telephone list(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Tape for windows, doors and other openings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caulking compound | |

- Protect important paper records from wind, rain, flooding and debris.
- When/if the decision is made, shut down operations and processes safely in accordance with original equipment manufacturers recommendations.
- Back up important computer data and records and store backups in a safe location, preferably offsite.
- Release non-essential staff, or direct to a designated safe location.

Building and Structures:

- Fill all aboveground tanks with product to improve stability and minimize damage from wind.
- Anchor and tie down all structures, equipment and storage in the yard including small buildings and sheds, trailers, conveyors, mobile equipment, lumber, process equipment, etc. Move smaller objects inside if possible.
- When possible, move important equipment and stock if subject to potential wind, collapse, water or other weather exposure. If equipment or stock cannot be relocated consider additional protection with lumber, tarps, ropes, etc.
- Move elevators up above potential flood levels.
- Board up windows, operate shutters, tie down equipment, etc. as needed.

Emergency Equipment:

- Ensure emergency generators, water pumps, etc., are operational and fuel tanks are full.
- Clean all catch basins, drains, and drainage ditches. Lower the levels of retention ponds. Ensure all sump pumps are operational and connected to emergency power.

Fire Protection:

- Ensure all fuel tanks are full and all outside fire protection equipment is secured.
- Verify all fire water tanks and reservoirs are full.

Additional information:



Share the tip sheet:



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