SMART SAFETY GULF COAST

HURRICANE SAFETY FOR BUSINESSES

BEFORE THE STORM

Prepare Your People, Property, and Operations

PLAN AHEAD

- Review and update your Emergency Action Plan and assign clear roles
- Know your evacuation zone and set the trigger for closing operations
- Release employees early enough to evacuate safely

COMMUNICATE

- Update employee emergency contact lists
- Set up a check-in procedure for after the storm
- Share how and when the business will reopen

SECURE YOUR SITE

- Tie down or store loose materials, signage, and equipment
- Secure scaffolding and follow manufacturer guidance for cranes
- Clear drains and move equipment and inventory to higher ground

PROTECT RECORDS AND ASSETS

- Back up critical files off-site or in the cloud
- Photograph your property and equipment for insurance
- Keep copies of insurance policies and key contacts

STOCK UP AND PREPARE

- First aid kits, water, flashlights, batteries, and PPE
- Fuel vehicles and generators in advance
- Know how to shut off power, gas, and water

CONSTRUCTION JOBSITES

- Tie down or remove loose lumber, roofing materials, and debris that can become flying projectiles
- Secure, lower, or relocate cranes, aerial lifts, and heavy equipment per manufacturer wind guidance
- Remove scaffold tarps and netting, and tie off or brace scaffolds
- Anchor or remove job trailers, portable toilets, and dumpsters
- Brace incomplete walls, formwork, and partially built structures
- Shut down temporary power and secure fuel and gas cylinders upright

AFTER THE STORM

Return and Recover Safely

BEFORE YOU RETURN

- Wait for the all-clear from local officials
- Check in with every employee
- Inspect for structural damage, gas odors, and standing water before entering

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- Treat every downed power line as energized; stay clear and call the utility
- Never enter flooded areas where electricity may be present

GENERATORS

- Run generators outdoors only, at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents
- Never use generators indoors or in garages

CLEANUP HAZARDS

- Limit chainsaw work to trained operators
- Use fall protection on roofs and ladders
- Wear gloves, goggles, and N95 respirators around mold and debris
- Avoid floodwater; it can hide sharp objects and contamination

HEAT AND FATIGUE

- Provide water, rest, and shade for every crew
- Rotate workers and watch for heat illness

DOCUMENT AND REPORT

- Photograph damage and notify your insurer
- Report all injuries and incidents right away

CONSTRUCTION JOBSITES

- Have a competent person inspect scaffolds for stability, damage, and missing components before use
- Inspect cranes, aerial lifts, and heavy equipment for damage and water intrusion before operating
- Check trenches and excavations for cave-in hazards and water accumulation
- Verify shoring, bracing, formwork, and partially built structures are stable
- Test temporary power, cords, and GFCIs for water damage before re-energizing
- Replace missing guardrails, hole covers, and barricades before crews return

NEED HELP PREPARING OR RECOVERING?

SMART Safety Gulf Coast helps businesses with emergency action plans, storm readiness assessments, post-storm site safety assessments, and recovery crew training.

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