

# Hurricane and Named Storm Prep

About 9 minutes to deliver

Everything loose becomes a projectile, the decisions get made days out, and the most dangerous work is the cleanup afterwards.

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A named storm is the one weather event you get days of warning for. That warning is the whole advantage, and it gets wasted by starting on the last day.

## THE TIMELINE, NOT THE CHECKLIST

- Days out. Decide the trigger for stopping work and for securing the site, and tell everyone what it is. Order what you will need — fuel, water, plywood, straps, sandbags — before every yard in the county is out of it.
- Before the wind builds. Everything loose is secured or removed, because there is no securing anything once it is blowing.
- Before you leave. Photograph the site. It is worth an hour when the insurance conversation starts.
- Do not come back until the site is declared safe, not when the sun comes out.

## EVERYTHING LOOSE IS A PROJECTILE

- Scaffold sheeting and debris netting come down. A sheeted scaffold is a sail, and it takes the scaffold with it.
- Plywood, forms, sheet goods, trash, cones, drums, portable toilets, gang boxes — secured, laid flat, or gone.
- Loose material on roofs and upper floors is the worst of it. It leaves the building and arrives somewhere else at speed.
- Cranes follow the manufacturer's storm procedure. Tower cranes are normally put into weathervane so the jib can turn with the wind — never locked. Mobile cranes are boomed down.
- Trenches and excavations. Assume they fill and collapse. Fence them, and expect to have a competent person re-inspect before anyone goes near one afterwards.

## THE CLEANUP IS WHERE PEOPLE GET HURT

More injuries come out of the days after a storm than the storm itself, and the crew doing it is tired, hot, and working somewhere that has been rearranged.

- Every downed line is live. Every one, including the one lying in water, and including the one the utility "said was dead".
- Generators outdoors only, away from openings. Carbon monoxide kills people after every hurricane, indoors, with a generator running in a garage.
- Backfeed. Never connect a generator to a building through an outlet — it energises the service and can kill a lineman working to restore the neighbourhood.
- Chainsaws in storm debris is the most dangerous saw work there is: wood under tension, tangled trunks, unstable footing, and hidden fencing and metal. Chaps, and never alone.
- Water is not water. Assume sewage, fuel, chemicals and sharps. Boots, gloves, and wash before eating.
- Heat. Power is out, there is no shade, and everyone is working long days. This is when heat illness kills.
- Structures are not sound until somebody qualified says so. Wet drywall, sagging ceilings, undermined foundations.

## THE PEOPLE

Some of the crew will have damage at home. Ask, and mean it, before assigning the longest days to the person who has none of a house left.

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## ASK THE CREW

- What is our trigger to stop work and secure this site, and who calls it?
- What is on this site right now that would leave it in 90 mph wind?
- Who here would have to deal with their own house first?

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29 CFR 1926.20 · 29 CFR 1910.38 · 29 CFR 1926.35

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ATTENDANCE RECORD

# Hurricane and Named Storm Prep

About 9 minutes to deliver · 29 CFR 1926.20 · 29 CFR 1910.38 · 29 CFR 1926.35

Date

Job / site

Delivered by

Company

| #  | Print name | Signature | Date |
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I delivered this talk and determined it was suitable for this crew and this work.

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