AFTER 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 after a hurricane.

Tips for Businesses

- Secure the site and establish a Command Center to direct the recovery operation
- Survey damage and notify local fire and/or police departments as soon as it is safe to do so
- Survey for safety hazards such as downed electrical wires, leaking gas or flammable liquids, poisonous gasses, damage to foundations or underground piping
- Clean roof drains, storm drains, retention ponds and remove debris
- Call designated key personnel and emergency contractors to coordinate and start repairs and salvage
- Begin salvage as soon as possible to prevent further damage
- Report damage to insurance companies immediately
- Clean and dry equipment with the most critical objects receiving priority
- Consider dehumidification of most areas, especially those containing moisture sensitive equipment
- Inspect all electrical equipment, including exposed insulators, bus bars and conductors, before reenergizing electrical distribution systems and equipment

Items to Consider

- Cover broken windows and damaged roofs. Make temporary repairs to prevent further damage
- Cover contents of buildings with tarps to minimize rain damage when roof repairs cannot be readily accomplished
- Separate damaged goods from undamaged goods
- Remove standing water in buildings and yard areas
- Fire Protection
  - Repair and return to service as soon as possible all fire protection such as sprinklers, water supplies, fire pumps, special extinguishing systems, alarms and supervisory service
  - Ensure that all company policy programs, such as hot work (cutting and welding) and smoking, are properly supervised and enforced during salvage and repair operations
  - If automatic protection is impaired, arrangements for special fire watches should be made and notice provided to your insurance company and the fire department
  - Maintain a fire watch during outages to fire protection equipment and/or water supply
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