



Loss Control Bulletin

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Topic: Recovery and Cleanup Following Hurricanes
Lines Affected: Workers Compensation
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Executive Summary

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued an alert focusing on the dangers associated with recovery and cleanup efforts following hurricanes.

Workers Face Dangers Associated with Hurricane Recovery and Cleanup

Precautions Must Be Taken

OSHA has issued an alert focusing on the dangers workers face when involved in recovery and cleanup efforts following hurricanes.

OSHA notes that there is a real potential for fatal accidents involving electrocution from power lines, as well as serious injuries associated with tree trimming. OSHA urges employers, workers and the public to observe appropriate safety and health precautions while performing cleanup and utility restoration operations. This includes coordinating with control centers responsible for power circuits so that workers do not enter areas where there are live wires.

OSHA has available on their web site a number of resources including fact-sheets on Cleanup Hazards, Food Cleanup, and Fungi, and a safety and health information bulletin on mold safety and remediation. These are highlighted below and are available at www.osha.gov.

- Cleanup Hazards gives people involved in cleanup operations tips on avoiding injuries and health hazards, such as how to avoid electrical hazards and fires, and suggestions on clothing and personal protective equipment to wear while cleaning up.
- Flood Cleanup discusses the hazards contained in floodwater, how to protect against contamination or disease from exposure to floodwater, and what to do if symptoms of illness develop after exposure to floodwater.
- Fungi contains information on fungal diseases and conditions that can develop after floods, tips on protecting workers against exposure, and suggestions on what to do if symptoms develop after potential exposures.
- Mold Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB) offers recommendations on how to prevent mold growth and how to protect workers involved in the prevention and cleanup of mold.