



Hurricane/tropical storm (HTS) action plan for construction projects with COVID-19 exposure



Pre-storm preparations

Plan to have conversation with local FEMA, EMA, EMS, municipal authorities, etc. to understand their response plans and how to better coordinate. Understand local restrictions ahead of time should HTS or another emergency event occur. Make sure you understand the specific COVID-19 restrictions that will be in place before and after the storm.

- Before hurricane season starts, HTS supplies should be purchased. Once a storm is named, these materials become scarce quickly. Having them purchased before a storm is named will ensure the site has what it is needed and can focus efforts on preparation.
- Establish multiple muster/rally points around project to allow social distancing.
- Early storm path monitoring is essential. Be very flexible and have redundancy built into plan if HTS path/cone changes or deviates.
- Earlier action upon storm notification/warning – pushing time earlier from 48-72 hours to perhaps 120 hours earlier.
- Stockpiling of HTS related supplies for banding materials/ securing the jobsite plywood, visqueen, ropes, etc. to assist in compliance to social distancing.
- Evacuation shelters – consider social distancing concerns which might lead to more shelter locations. Establish locations ahead of time and any restrictions. Identify local hospitals/clinics and backups in case of HTS disables first choice. Have COVID-19 kits on hand and ready to go.
- If the project is far enough along with good concrete protection and far enough inland, consider using it as a hurricane shelter.
- Consider increasing shifts to prepare for storm (120 hours out). Plan to have minimal crew size if possible, to monitor jobsites – plan to house these small crews to be able to quickly respond if necessary.
- Take advantage of working remotely ahead of storm to avoid interruptions in business – allows quicker response to getting back up and running after storm.
- Prepare every job as if HTS will hit. Keep minimum amount of materials on site to have to secure in the first place (just in time concept).

- Traveling work crews – allow them time to actually leave area and return home to avoid incurring expenses and overloading local hotels (may not be an issue due to recent hotel vacancy rates). Negotiate rates with hotels in case this is necessary – consider local road closures and be sure to identify those “travelers” and accommodate their having to leave early enough to get out of area. If not possible to allow travelers time to evacuate, make plans to shelter them.
- Suggest that photos/video be taken of the entire jobsite to document pre-storm construction status as well as site preparations you have taken. Also, maintain receipts for all supplies and labor used for hurricane preparation. This aids in submitting an extra-expense claim.
- Create 2nd Level PPE (COVID-19) response kits including masks, face coverings, sanitizer, bleach, gloves, face shields, disinfectant wipes or ability to make sanitizing solutions onsite.
- Crane and mobile equipment considerations – early planning with vendors/suppliers to lower booms, weathervane, etc. securing equipment – plan for early securing fuel tanks, and fuel deliveries for generators as needed.
- Work to secure planning with local clean-up firms to be able to respond post HTS.
- Document details for each COVID-19 related response function, who performs them, who receives output, etc.
- Critical to know how to locate employees after a disaster to keep them safe.
- Record basic employee contact info and options for communicating if power is out.
- Identify key processes within COVID-19 plan and decide how long we might have to operate without.
- Keep updated contact information for local EMTs, fire, police, key customers, suppliers and vendors.

- Keep these emergency COVID-19 response lists where they are easily accessible.
- Inventory and document information technology, hardware, software, data and connectivity.
- Have frequent data back-up off-site with restoration options.
- Use a checklist to assist in post-HTS COVID-19 strategy along with assigned contacts.
- Update and practice the response plan with staff via live preparation and response drills.
- Prepare for COVID-19 related absences by cross-training staff and obtaining temporary help.
- Identify alternate PPE suppliers and vendors in case of safety service supply chain disruptions.
- Know what insurance policy covers and what it doesn't.
- Keep insurance agent, claims and risk control contacts info stored in your phone.
- Evaluate jobsite specific unique risks by using resources from CDC, WHO, and local agencies (state department of health or county emergency management agency).
- Close exterior doors, windows and interior doors to compartmentalize pressure inside the structure to reduce wind forces and improve shelter in place safety.



Post-storm activities

- Ensure shelters have enough social distancing allowances and PPE on hand. Ensure adequate food, potable water, sanitation (personal hygiene and site cleanliness) supplies available and stockpile these supplies early on to avoid last minute rush as seen with recent COVID-19 issues.
- Crane inspection post-HTS – have a backup plan for inspection services due to overloading of initial vendor.
- (Both pre and post) – Establish communication with local contracting community and/or trade associations to be able to coordinate supplies as needed between companies and sharing local resources and leverage best practices and initiatives amongst all companies.

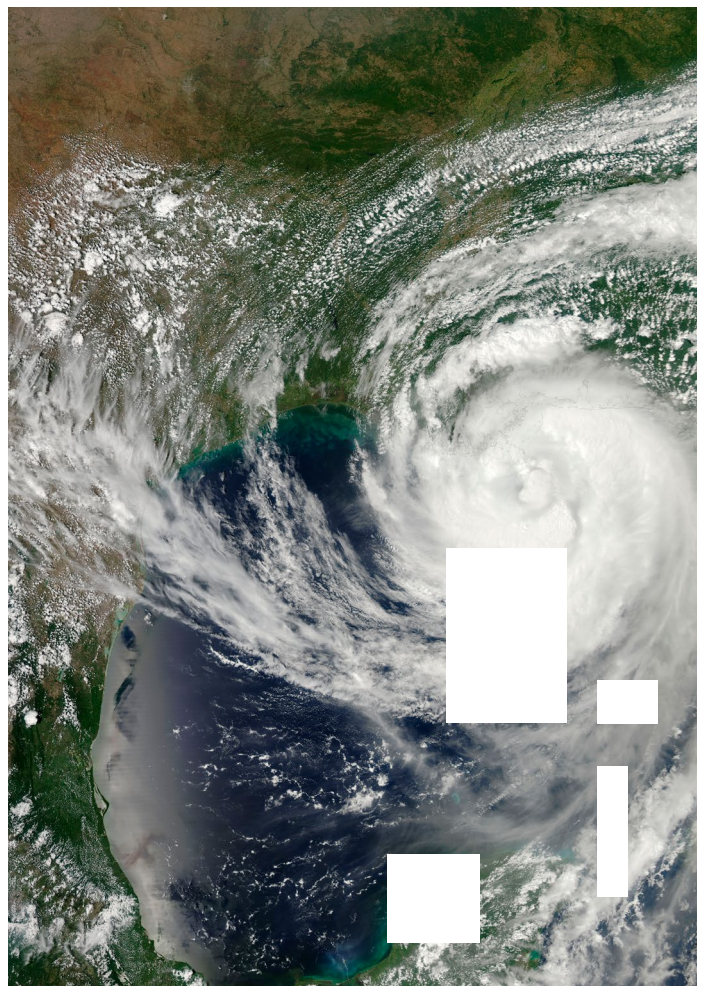
- Continue to maintain applicable COVID-19 protocols in all post HTS activities.
- Contract with local medical providers (EMS, RNs) to conduct onsite pre-screening of workers for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Ease the potential claims handling process with good jobsite safety and COVID-19 related record-keeping.
- If you must relocate, keep all records and receipts.
- Let employees know about status of the jobsite and if they can get back to work.
- Publish all COVID-19 and related safety recommendations to aid in response to the event.
- Ensure adequate first aid supplies are available on site for post-storm cleanup. These may be in short supply after a storm strikes.
- Communicate frequently with employees, key partners, clients, customers, suppliers and vendors.
- Consider hotlines, emails, intranets, dedicated websites and social posts to support recovery plan.
- Minimize in-person meetings and conference attendance and discontinue nonessential travel.
- Be careful when entering a damaged building especially if there is serious structural damage.
- Report downed power lines or gas leaks immediately.
- Keep electricity turned off if the building has been flooded.
- If handling the cleanup process, use correct PPE (eye protection, gloves, N95 masks, etc.).
- Don't wade through standing water.
- Avoid downed power lines and always assume they're live.
- Use emergency generators safely with adequate exhaust ventilation.
- Enable geo-tagging by turning on location services when taking photographs or videos which help with post event record keeping.

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