

Post-Hurricane Procedures

The devastation a hurricane leaves in its wake depends on the location, population density, and the hurricane size. In the immediate aftermath of a hurricane, it is important to quickly and calmly assess the situation.

- Following your **Emergency Action Plan**; account for all persons, provide search and rescue personnel with last known location of any missing victim(s).

- Follow your **Medical Emergency Plan** (pg. 6); do not move seriously injured individuals. If high-rise buildings are in the general area, falling debris may make open areas more dangerous than remaining inside the buildings. Watch out for fallen power lines and broken glass lines.

- Take these **immediate actions**:
 - Stay away from power lines, buildings, and any object that might fall.
 - Secure the site and provide watch service if necessary.
 - Visually check for open bus bars, conductors, and exposed insulators before re-energizing electrical systems.

- Take these **recovery actions**:
 - Survey the facilities for damage.
 - Take photographs of the damage.
 - Look for safety hazards such as live electrical wires, leaking gas, flammable liquids, corrosive/toxic materials, and damage to foundations or underground piping.
 - Repair automatic sprinkler protection and/or water supplies to get protection back in service as soon as possible. Have a designated person in charge for Property Fire Protection Impairment Procedures whenever sprinkler protection and/or water supplies are impaired. Have procedures readily available with contact information to report impairments to fire protection systems or for assistance in restoring systems.
 - Restore fire protection systems if necessary.
 - Conduct two-inch main drain and alarm tests on automatic fire protection sprinkler systems to verify public water supply availability.
 - Contact key personnel and notify contractors to start repairs. Control smoking and use hot work permits where applicable. Maintain fire-safe conditions at all times.
 - Begin salvage as soon as possible to prevent further damage:
 - Cover broken windows and torn roof coverings immediately.
 - Separate damaged goods.
 - Clean roof drains and remove debris from roofs.
 - Check refrigerated items for spoilage if there has been a power failure.

- Limit access to freezers and refrigerated areas during periods of interrupted electrical service to maintain the temperatures as long as possible.