

After the Storm

Introduction:

After the storm, you may go outdoors, or return to the area, if you evacuated, only after authorities have confirmed it to be safe. If you are participating in cleanup operations at your workplace, your employer is required to protect all workers from anticipated hazards. OSHA provides resources including guidelines to assist workers in response and recovery operations. It is important follow all procedures which begins with the use of proper PPE including protection for head, eyes, hearing, feet, hands and body. It is recommended to work with a buddy, and follow proper technique when lifting heavy objects, and use equipment as aids when possible.

Discussion Points:

- Return to area only after authorities confirm it to be safe.
- Follow guidelines and procedures when assisting in response and recovery operations.
- Stay away from damaged building, downed trees and powerlines.
- Never drive through water on roadways, and do not walk through flood waters.
- Be aware of conditions that present risk to health and safety.

Discussion:

Stay away from damaged buildings and downed trees and power lines. Be aware of damaged roads due to flooding and do not drive through water on roadways. Never walk through flood waters, because of possible contamination from sewage and hidden danger. Do not enter any buildings until gas lines have been turned off or checked for damage. If there is no power, use flashlights instead of candles. Use only power equipment designed for outdoor use in wet conditions and use according to its intended application per manufacturer. All safety factors must be taken into consideration, including the use of proper grounding techniques. Be aware of conditions that present risk to health and safety including carbon monoxide, sewage and mold. Throw away any food that has been expose to storm conditions and use safe water only.

As always, be safe out there!

September 30, 2019

