

OSHA Urges Caution During Hurricane Emergency Response Efforts

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is urging emergency response and recovery workers and people living in areas affected by hurricanes Milton and Helene to be cautious when facing hazards related to flooding, power loss, structural damage, fallen trees and storm debris.

Storm recovery activities - such as restoring electricity and communications, clearing and removing debris, repairing or replacing roofs and trimming trees - present dangers that demand people involved in recovery and cleanup be experienced, trained properly and familiar with equipment used.

In a storm's aftermath, OSHA reminds employers involved in response and recovery to do the following:

- Evaluate work areas for hazards.
- Assess the stability of structures and walking surfaces.
- Ensure fall protection when working from elevated surfaces.
- Assume all powerlines are live.
- Operate chainsaws, portable generators, ladders and other equipment properly.
- Use personal protective equipment, such as gloves, hard hats, hearing, foot and eye protection.

OSHA offers [comprehensive hurricane preparedness and response](#) information, including safety tips for employers and workers and an alert on [keeping workers safe during flood cleanup](#). Individuals involved in response and recovery efforts may call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742).

Below you will find additional resources for individuals needing assistance along with guidance for employers who may be engaged in emergency response efforts.

- [FEMA Hurricane Resources and State Response Pages](#)
- [EPA Hurricane Response and Cleanup Guidance](#)