

Construction Risk Advisor

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PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON: 5 TIPS FOR CONTRACTORS

The 2018 hurricane season is here, and it's time for contractors to prepare for emergency weather situations that can not only disrupt current projects, but also hamper recovery efforts. Heavy rain and winds, surges in demand for labor and materials, and job site hazards in storm-damaged areas can create dangerous and expensive risks for contractors.

Minimize your risks during hurricane season with these five tips:

1. **Identify the potential for flooding.** Take steps to prevent on-site flooding, including installing drainage systems, moving large equipment and waiting to install finished products until the building is watertight.
2. **Protect your cranes.** Lower any cranes before weather events, if possible. Consult with the manufacturer or a professional engineer regarding how to best lower and secure cranes.
3. **Create an employee communications plan.** Devise an action plan with a list of contact information and a log of on-site workers so you can account for everyone if a storm hits.
4. **Check your business continuity plan.** Make sure employees understand their roles, and regularly review, update and test your continuity plan for business disruption.
5. **Review your insurance coverage.** Work with your insurance carrier or broker to make sure your business is adequately protected.

Assess whether a project will be affected by hurricane season, and weigh the risks before agreeing to a contract. Consider whether or not you have enough qualified staff to handle the work post-storm, as well as the materials needed to complete the job, so you're prepared in case of supply shortages.

Expect heightened scrutiny when receiving federal funds for hurricane recovery efforts.



More than 38% of Hurricane Harvey complaints involved contractors claiming to be hired by FEMA.

Source: National Center for Disaster Fraud

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