

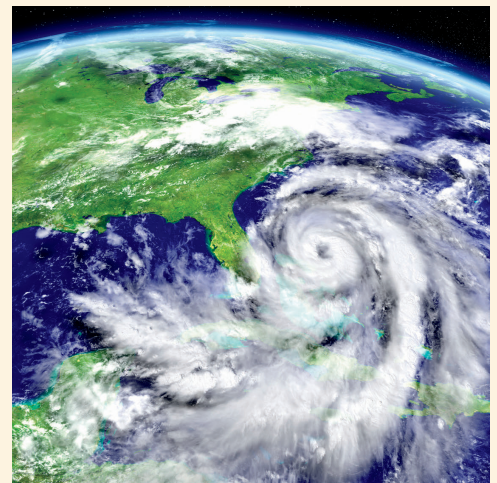
Prevention Update



Hurricane Season Safety Tips

The best response to unpredictable weather events is proper emergency planning.

The Atlantic hurricane season spans from May to November, with most activity occurring between mid-August and mid-October*. Historically, PEI and the Maritimes have been hardest hit during the month of September with hurricanes and post-tropical storms Juan (Sept. 2003), Dorian (Sept. 2019), Teddy (Sept. 2020) and Fiona (Sept. 2022).



Follow these helpful tips to protect your workers and your worksite.

PROTECTING WORKERS

- **Review emergency plans** – Review your emergency plans regularly and make necessary changes and updates as required. Emergency plans should include what to do in case of extreme weather events.
- **Communicate your hurricane plan** – Communicate it to your workers to make sure expectations are clear and everyone understands their roles and responsibilities.
- **Keep contact lists updated** - Confirm that your worker contact lists are current.
- **Communicate frequently before, during and after the storm** – Provide information and reminders with phone calls, emails, text messages, onsite or virtual meetings. Plan for communication services being unavailable with multiple contact options.
- **Have extra supplies available** - Have non-perishable food and water on hand for 72 hours in case workers are unable to get home and must seek shelter at work. Consider assembling an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, blankets, plastic sheets, duct tape, etc. Visit PEI's Public Safety [How to be prepared for an emergency](#) web page for what to include in your emergency kit.
- **If necessary, leave work early** - Give employees adequate time to protect themselves, their families, and their property.
- **Provide training that will benefit workers after the storm** - If necessary, train workers in the safe use of a chainsaw or other tools that may be required for clean-up. Remind workers about the dangers of fallen power lines and how to avoid an incident.
- **After the storm** - Use caution when entering a damaged building. If there is serious structural damage, contact local officials before entering. Report downed power lines or gas leaks. If the building was flooded, keep the electricity turned off.

PROTECTING WORKSITES

- **Create a comprehensive emergency plan** which includes evacuation routes, designated safe areas, and worker roles and responsibilities before, during and after a hurricane. Include a plan for safely assessing the damage and getting the workplace operational again once the storm has passed.
- Closely **monitor forecasts** as weather events can evolve quickly.
- **Follow instructions** from public safety officials.
- Give workers **adequate time** (24-36 hours) to secure the worksite.
- **Secure worksites** by putting away tools, securing supplies and hazardous materials, securing new builds with extra bracing, and moving company vehicles and mobile equipment to a safe location. Disconnect electronic equipment to prevent damage from power surges.
- Make sure all **critical data and important documents are backed up off-site** to prevent loss in the event of damage to the workplace.
- **Review insurance policy** to confirm hurricane related damage and business interruptions are covered.
- Remove and avoid overhead hazards by trimming large trees and moving any equipment that may be struck by fallen trees or power lines.
- **Fill and test emergency generators** and have extra fuel available. Do not run generators indoors and ensure a distance of at least 6m or 20ft from buildings.
- **Replace batteries** in smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- **Board up windows** by covering windows with storm panels or plywood. Make sure all doors are locked and secured.
- To avoid flooding, make efforts to **divert water** away from buildings and equipment.

PRACTICAL ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND



Emergency contact lists for workers but also for police, fire department, PEI Emergency Measures Organization, Maritime Electric or Summerside Electric, etc.



Battery powered or hand-crank radio and extra batteries.



Extra set of keys for your worksite(s) and company vehicles.



Emergency cash in small bills since access to banks and ATMs may be limited.



Toilet paper, paper towel, tissues, feminine hygiene products, garbage bags.



Hand tools like wrenches, pliers, etc.

***Source:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (nd). Tropical Cyclone Climatology. Retrieved August 23, 2023, from <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/climo/#:~:text=The%20peak%20of%20the%20Atlantic,also%20normalized%20to%20100%20years.>

