



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

Hurricane Preparation and Construction Sites

Just as you prepare your home and family for an impending hurricane, it is also important to prepare construction job sites. Planning now can make a significant difference in how well construction sites fare during a storm. Local emergency operations officials and the National Weather Service typically provide hurricane landfall probabilities 48-to-60 hours before the storm is expected to make landfall. Consider canceling the delivery of building materials to all job sites except for any materials needed to secure the building or site from storm damage. All construction activities should cease within the 24-to-48-hour window before the storm's predicted landfall. It is important to note; most local building departments stop field inspections when a severe storm is imminent. Exceptions may be made for inspections related to the following: pouring columns, tie beams, wet decks, floors, and similar structural items. Contractors are encouraged to activate their hurricane job site plan during this time and should notify subcontractors to help ensure the security of the building/site.

Helpful tips for site protection include:

1. Secure all job sites, giving priority attention to sites in the most populated areas.
2. Clean up all construction debris.
3. Tie or band together all loose plywood and lumber. Secure other loose building supplies.
4. Remove permit board and all job site signage.
5. Locate and turn off electricity, water, and gas.
6. Secure all portable toilets. Portable toilets can be anchored to adjacent L-shaped walls of the structure that is under construction. Another option is to weigh down the portable toilet(s) with concrete blocks or sand.

After the site is secure, advise subcontractors to leave and not return until the storm threat has passed. Be sure to have contact numbers for all subcontractors stored in a secure and dry place. Ensure communication is clear to your subcontractors about who will contact them once the storm passes. During the last 24 hours prior to the hurricane making landfall; go home and take precautions to safeguard your family, pets, and property.

Other preventative measures include ensuring all important tools have dependable/fully charged batteries in them, including cell phones. The construction industry relies on cell phones and other wireless communication devices to coordinate hurricane preparations and clean-up after a storm. Reliable batteries are vital for getting back to normal on the job. Make sure gas tanks are full in all vehicles and equipment that may be needed to secure or escape job sites. If there are valuable items that must remain at the site, take photographs for insurance purposes before leaving. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact the Development Services Department at: 727-816-1900, option #2.