



Jobsite Storm Preparedness: What Can You Do In 3 Hours?

Severe weather can appear with little warning, often requiring a quick response to secure jobsites from potential damage. Use these tips to help keep your jobsites safe and secure!

1. Develop a storm preparedness plan. Do this early in the construction phase. Identify high risk areas for wind and water damage. Ensure that high value or critical path materials and equipment are protected. What materials do you need to protect your site? What equipment might be needed to mitigate or clean up after a storm?

2. Follow the weather. Designate who will be responsible for tracking the day's weather forecast and communicating potential concerns to management and employees. Don't forget to plan for weekend weather prior to leaving the site on Friday! Consider signing up for weather/emergency alerts from NOAA, FEMA, and local agencies.

3. Take Action. Three hours before the storm (or before leaving for the weekend):

- Activate the storm preparedness plan.
- Notify your response team.
- Re-route labor away from normal production activities as needed
- Stage/coordinate response equipment:
 - Generators, temporary heaters, dewatering pumps, blowers, plywood, tarps, poly sheeting, etc.
- Inspect the jobsite for potential hazards:
 - Openings where water could intrude
 - Loose items that could be damaged by wind
 - Unprotected equipment/materials
 - Areas with poor drainage where water could accumulate
- Implement corrective actions.
- Monitor conditions as needed, or when it's safe to do so.
- Report any incidents or damage as soon as identified.

Additional Tips:

- Verify that all active roof drains are open. Close/block off any drains that are incomplete.
- Verify that any existing sump pump systems are operational.
- If using fuel powered equipment (pumps, heaters, generators) obtain enough fuel and make sure it's safely stored.
- Turn off any non-critical domestic or temporary water services.
- Drain or protect any charged water lines if there is a potential for freezing.
- Use temporary heaters in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never operate generators indoors- keep them at least 10 feet from building openings.