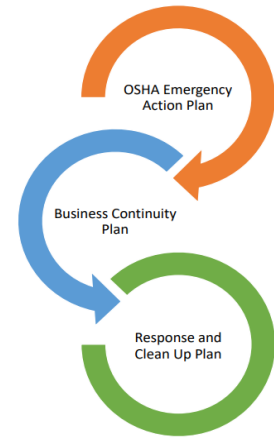

2023 SE Texas Hurricane Season Begins June 1st

SE Texas has had a number of weather events over the years including severe flooding, tornados, and hurricanes. We don't want to forget that hurricane season is starting again, and we should start reviewing and updating our plans. We should plan for all contingencies. Take a close look at your operations and current preparations and plan accordingly. Preplanning helps to keep your employees safe and ensure your business continuity. Don't forget that your city, county, and State agencies have important regional and local information to help in your planning and response. Think of:

- An OSHA Emergency Action Plan as protecting people in an emergency
- A Business Continuity Plan as protecting the business
- A Response and Clean-up Plan as protecting people to safely get your business up and running.



OSHA Emergency Action Plan 1910.38 – Protecting People

A workplace emergency is a situation that threatens workers, customers, or the public; disrupts or shuts down operations; or causes physical or environmental damage. Emergencies may be natural or man-made, and may include hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, winter weather, chemical spills or releases, disease outbreaks, releases of biological agents, explosions involving nuclear or radiological sources, and many other hazards. Many types of emergencies can be anticipated in the planning process, which can help employers and workers plan for other unpredictable situations.

Employers and workers may be required to deal with an emergency when it is least expected and proper planning before an emergency is necessary to respond effectively. The best way to protect workers is to expect the unexpected and to carefully develop an emergency action plan to guide everyone in the workplace when immediate action is necessary. Planning in advance helps ensure that everyone knows what to do when an emergency occurs.

OSHCN Sample EAP Plan



<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/oshcon/>



OSHA EAP eTool



<https://www.osha.gov/etools/e-vacuation-plans-procedures>

Business Continuity Plan – Protecting Your Business

Business continuity are the important steps you need to take in order to keep functioning in the event of a major disaster or even a small disruption. The goal is to continue to perform the most critical operations, which will help reduce short- and long-term losses to your bottom line. Like any plan, it should be routinely reviewed to ensure it is up to date and reflects the current business situation and practices.



Ready.Gov



<https://www.ready.gov/>

IBHS Business Planning



<https://disastersafety.org/>

Ready Business Hurricane Book



https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/ready_business_hurricane-toolkit.pdf

EHCMA Severe Weather Preparedness/Best Practices (Chem Plants)



<https://www.ehcma.org/hurricane-safety-reminders-for-your-plant-site-and-at-home/>

Response and Clean-Up - Getting your Business Up and Running Safely

Management of activities before, during and after an emergency is a difficult task. Different components must be considered to account for all the potential hazards that can be faced. Preparing a comprehensive plan is vital to ensure the correct management of resources, consecution of activities and protection of responders. During the development of a disaster management plan, potential hazards can be identified which helps to establish the necessary measures to prevent, control and mitigate those hazards. Measures can include but are not limited to the establishment of a system to manage personnel during an emergency, provide training to face a particular hazard, define the use of personal protective equipment, and install guidelines and mechanisms to be used in case of an emergency, among others.



OSHA Emergency Response



<https://www.osha.gov/emergency-preparedness>

NIOSH Natural Disasters



<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/natural.html>

NIEHS Preparation & Response



<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=556>

States, Counties, and cities will usually have an emergency operations webpage covering specific information such as flood zones, storm surge evacuation zones and other important information. It's a good idea to check for information specific to your area(s) and consider signing up for emergency notification emails, texts, or apps.

Mention of any group or organization is not an endorsement and the links provided are for informational purposes only. This information has been developed by an OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist and is intended to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. While we attempt to thoroughly address specific topics [or hazards], it is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in a presentation of this nature. Thus, this information must be understood as a tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. Likewise, to the extent that this information references practices or procedures that may enhance health or safety, but which are not required by a statute, regulation, or standard, it cannot, and does not, create additional legal obligations. Finally, over time, OSHA may modify rules and interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. For questions contact Jim Shelton at the Houston North Area Office at shelton.james@dol.gov.