

Staying Safe During Disaster Cleanup and Recovery



Natural disasters can cause widespread flooding and damage to property and infrastructure. Cleanup and recovery activities involve hazards that can cause serious injuries or death. These hazards are outlined below along with the proper precautions for employers and workers.



Contaminated Floodwaters

Assume that floodwater is contaminated unless proven otherwise. Keep an adequate supply of clean water available for drinking and washing. Discard water-damaged and visibly contaminated materials.



Downed Power Lines

Keep a safe distance from downed or damaged power lines. Repairs must be performed by trained electrical utility workers.



Tree Trimming and Debris Removal

Establish and clearly mark a danger zone where tree debris may fall onto workers. All tree trimming/removal within 10 feet of a power line must be done by trained tree trimmers.



Portable Generators

Use gas and diesel-powered generators outdoors to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide. Never run a portable generator inside a house or in an enclosed space.



Construction Activities

Buildings and structures weakened by the storm may be at risk of collapse with walls, roofs, and floors potentially unstable.



Beware of slips and falls due to slippery walkways

Use safe procedures to prevent falls. Use a body harness with a lanyard attached to an appropriate anchor point. Be aware of wet or slippery surfaces, obstacles, or uneven surfaces on the site.



Chemical/Biological Hazards

Wash hands with soap and clean water, and wear protective clothing, goggles, gloves and boots to avoid contamination. Allow only trained workers with proper personal protective equipment to clean up toxic chemicals, other hazardous waste, and mold.



Work Zones

Wear high visibility clothing and headwear compliant with ANSI/ISEA 107-2004. Use proper traffic controls. Use proper lighting, flaggers, and worksite communications.

For more information on how to stay safe contact us:



linktr.ee/worksafeva



consultation@doli.virginia.gov



doli.virginia.gov/

