



## Business continuity planning for hurricanes

What would happen to your business if there was a hurricane? Businesses should consider the following recommendations:

- Ask your local emergency management office about community plans.
- Establish facility shutdown, warning and evacuation procedures. Make hurricane assignments well in advance of a storm and do not assign employees with critical family responsibilities.
- Make plans for communicating with employees before and after a hurricane.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery backup. Listen for hurricane watches and warnings.
- Survey your facility. Remove items that could become wind borne and could pose a threat to your or surrounding property. Make plans to protect outside equipment and structures.

- Protect windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection. Covering windows with 5/8 inch marine plywood is a second option.
- Consider the need for backup systems:
  - Alternate power sources such as generators or gasoline-powered pumps
  - Battery-powered emergency lighting
  - Prepare to move records, computers and other items within your facility or to another location.
  - Portable pumps to remove flood water

For more information on business and industry planning, download the Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry from [www.fema.gov/business](http://www.fema.gov/business).

## Sounds of recovery: chain saws and generators

### Chain saw safety

The chain saw is a time saving and efficient power tool. It can be unforgiving and lethal, however, causing injury or death in the hands of an uninformed and unaware operator. Contact your local tool or building Supply Company for information on chain saw safety programs. Be sure to have protective gear such as chaps, gloves and safety glasses.



### Generator Safety

Portable generators can be hazardous if used improperly. Use generators in open and well ventilated areas; do not use indoors.

#### To avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning:

- Operate generators outdoors only in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain (preferably under a canopy, open shed, or carport).
- Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages.



#### To avoid electrocution:

- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy duty, outdoor rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.
- Observe the generator manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet.
- If connecting the generator into the house wiring is necessary, have a qualified electrician hook up the standby electrical system.

Courtesy of the American Red Cross and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management



The aftermath of 2003 tropical storm Isabel in Chickahominy Haven.



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