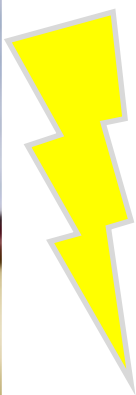# Preparing for Electrical Hazards After A Hurricane

Are you ready for the aftermath of a hurricane? As you deploy workers to clean up an area and restore services, remember that they may encounter more safety risks after the storm than during it.

One critical area to look out for is electrical hazards, and now is the time to assess whether workers have the necessary training and protective equipment. Consider this guidance from NIOSH to prepare for electrical risks in hurricane cleanup:

Watch out for these ELECTRICAL Hazards

- ***Downed electrical lines, wires and cables,*** which can cause electrocution, shock or burns, while also energizing nearby metal objects such as ladders, fences or building parts.
- ***Water on or near power lines or equipment,*** which can cause electric shock or electrocution.
- ***Improperly connected portable generators,*** causing dangerous feedback in electrical lines that can injure workers in neighboring buildings.

Exercise Caution Around Water & Electricity

- ***Do not approach or handle a downed power line*** unless you are a trained electrician or utility worker.
- ***Do not enter flooded areas*** or touch electrical devices in an area where the ground is wet.
- ***If water has been in a building, turn off the power*** at the main breaker or pull the main fuse on the service panel.
- ***Even if water is no longer visible, do not turn the power back on*** until electrical devices and circuits have been inspected.

Ensure Utility Workers have Proper PPE

- ***Rubber insulating gloves*** to protect against contact with energized objects.
- ***Leather protector gloves,*** worn over the rubber gloves, to prevent abrasions or cuts that could expose the hand to electrical current.

- ***Dielectric overboots or overshoes*** to prevent step potential.

- ***Arc flash PPE*** to protect workers from electrical explosions. Arc flash PPE kits can include components such as coat, hard hat, bib overalls, face shield and safety glasses.