



Hurricane, Tropical Storm, and Severe Weather Preparedness for Construction Sites

Hurricanes, tropical storms, and other forms of severe weather can be a significant hazard for property owners and contractors when building in a coastal community. These storms produce high winds that can damage buildings under construction and cause loose building materials to become airborne, damaging surrounding properties. In addition, these storms can cause flooding which can damage structures, as well as wash away building materials, construction debris, or equipment, if not properly secured. To help reduce potential damage, it is important to take precautionary actions in preparing for a storm. A proactive approach may save time and expenses. The following is a checklist with some recommended actions in preparing a construction site for an approaching storm.

Monitor the storm:

- Monitor the Town of Oak Island's Emergency Information page on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/EMERGENCY, as this will be primary source of preparation, response, and recovery information from the Town of Oak Island
- Monitor national and local weather stations for information on approaching storms.

Secure job site, materials, and equipment:

- Relocate building materials to a secure location, if relocation is not feasible, secure building materials to prevent windborne debris and stormwater debris.
- Relocate equipment to higher grounds if in a flood prone area.
- Remove construction debris.
- Remove or secure portable toilets.
- Cover all windows and glass with plywood.
- Brace all framing.
- Dismantle all scaffolding.
- Cleanout stormwater ditches.
- Secure sedimentation and stormwater controls.

Secure public utilities:

- Turn off water.
- Turn off electricity.
- Secure sewer lines to prevent water and debris from entering sewer system.

Note: These are just a few actions that can be taken in securing construction sites that can help reduce damage and costly clean up. As each construction site is different, it is recommended that you write your own preparedness plan and checklist that is suited for your projects.