



Safety Tips for the Calm after the Storm

Over the holiday weekend, 11 tornados swept the Dallas area, prompting Gov. Gregg Abbott to declare a state of emergency across much of North Texas. State and federal agencies are working alongside volunteers to assess and reverse the damage. If your business participates in recovery efforts, the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) encourages you to educate your employees about the hazards they might encounter and teach them how to protect themselves.

Potential hazards

- Hazardous driving conditions due to slippery and/or blocked roadways
- Slips and falls due to slippery walkways
- Falling and flying objects, such as tree limbs and utility poles
- Sharp objects, including nails and broken glass
- Electrical hazards from downed power lines or downed objects in contact with power lines
- Falls from heights
- Burns from fires caused by energized line contact or equipment failure
- Exhaustion from working extended shifts
- Heat exposure and dehydration

General precautions

- Leave utility restoration, hazardous material clean-up, and search and rescue to the professionals. They have the proper training, equipment and experience.
- Monitor your local radio or television stations for emergency information and the potential for additional storms.
- Be aware of possible structural, electrical or gas-leak hazards, and report them to the proper local authorities and/or utility.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed power lines.
- Wear boots, gloves and other proper clothing when walking on or near debris.
- Be careful around sharp objects, including nails and broken glass.
- Follow safety precautions when operating generators, chainsaws and other power tools.
- Take steps to prevent heat illness and dehydration.



More resources

For tips on weathering tornados and the hazards that often accompany them, visit Texas Mutual's blog post titled "[Lessons from the Field: Tornados Carve Path of Destruction Across North Texas.](#)"

For information on preparing your home and your business for an emergency, leverage these free tools:

[OSHA Evacuation Plans and Procedures eTool](#)

[OSHA Emergency Action Plan standard](#)

[Ready.gov - Make a Plan](#)

[FEMA Family Emergency Planning Guide](#)

[FEMA Family Emergency Communication Plan](#)