

Tornado Response and Recovery

The wake of a tornado can pose numerous hazards to personnel involved in response and recovery efforts. This training provides several potential hazards you'll find at a recovery site, as well as general safety practices.

Common hazards:

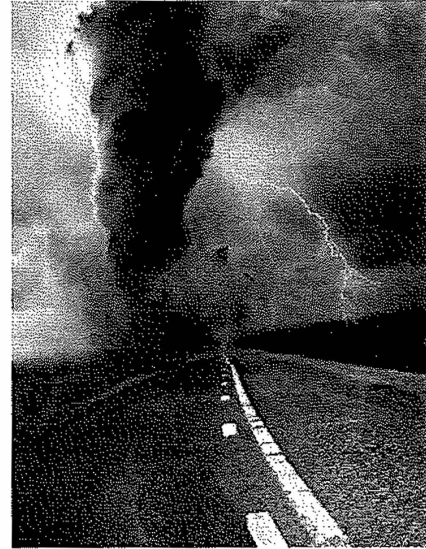
Prior to beginning work in a tornado-impacted area, assess the area to identify any potential safety or health hazards that you may encounter and plan needed controls for each.

- **Hazardous conditions:**

- Hazardous driving conditions
- Falling and flying objects, due to strong winds or overhanging structures
- Wet or slippery surfaces
- Unstable structures
- Electrical hazards
- Sharp objects
- Fires

- **Personal hazards:**

- Exhaustion from extended shifts
- Heat illness
- Dehydration



Please note: Some operations, such as utility repair or HAZMAT cleanup, can present task-specific hazards and should only be performed by properly trained and equipped individuals.

General precautions:

- Stay tuned to local radio or television for emergency and weather updates.
- Keep clear of downed power lines and any objects they may be in contact with.
- Stay aware of potential structural, chemical, or biological hazards.
- Make sure vaccinations for diseases such as hepatitis A and tetanus are current.
- Always wear appropriate clothing and PPE, including boots and gloves.
- Keep an eye out for sharp objects, e.g., loose nails, splintered materials, and broken glass.
- Keep cool and hydrated.
- Take additional precautions as needed when using generators, power tools, or any other powered or bladed objects or when using or working near heavy equipment or vehicles.