

Protect Your Most Valuable Resource During Hurricane Season

The TASB Risk Management Fund (Fund) is here to help you protect your organization’s resources from the potentially devastating impact of hurricanes. That includes your most valuable resource: your staff, along with the students they serve. The Fund’s risk solutions team encourages you to follow these safety tips in the hours leading up to a hurricane, during a hurricane, and in its aftermath.

Before a hurricane	
	Monitor conditions and learn the difference between hurricane watches and warnings. A watch means a hurricane is possible. A warning means a hurricane is expected.
	Ensure everyone shelters according to the organization’s emergency operations plan .
	Test emergency communication systems.
	Board up windows.
	Secure or remove equipment and other loose outdoor property that could become dangerous projectiles.
	Turn propane tanks off to reduce the risk of explosion.
	Postpone outdoor activities such as sporting events.
	Make sure go kits are stocked.
	Turn refrigerators and freezers to the coldest settings to keep food from spoiling.
During a hurricane	
	Listen for emergency information and instructions.
	Remember that the eye of a hurricane often brings a lull in the storm. That does not mean the storm is over. Wait for authorities to announce that the danger has passed.
	Stay away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
	If a hurricane strikes while buses are on their routes, instruct students to seek shelter in a ditch. Park the bus far enough away that it will not blow over onto students.



After a hurricane	
	Do not re-enter facilities until local authorities authorize you to. If you see standing water, contact the power company.
	Assign someone to monitor the safety of staff involved in clean-up efforts. Provide appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves for handling debris.
	Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. Stay clear of downed and dangling power lines.
	Use generators and other gas-powered machinery outdoors only, away from windows, to avoid lethal carbon monoxide accumulation.
	Stay alert for fire ants, snakes, rodents, and poisonous insects moving to higher ground for safety.
	Remember that flooding and road closures will continue for days after the storm. Monitor road closures, and steer clear of low-water crossings. Turn around, don't drown!