

# Security SpotLight

An Informational  
Guide for  
Security Clients

## Flood Safety

**IF YOU ARE UNDER  
A FLOOD WARNING,  
FIND SAFE SHELTER  
RIGHT AWAY**

- **Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Six inches of moving water is enough to knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep away a vehicle.**
- **Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.**
- **Determine how best to protect yourself based on the type of flooding. Based upon the situation, you may need, or be told to evacuate; move to higher ground or a higher floor; or shelter in place.**

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## Severe Weather Safety During a Pandemic

Severe weather can occur at any time of year. The type of weather experienced depends on your geographical location. Summer and winter storms can generate a variety of weather phenomena—from strong winds, wildfires, flooding and tornados to hail, ice and other hazardous conditions—that pose safety concerns. It is important to know the environmental risks faced by your workplace and be prepared for any extreme weather, water, or climate events. The global health crisis may require existing plans be adjusted. However, it is still possible to be prepared and respond effectively while staying safe.

### **Know the Risks, Plan Accordingly**

Understanding your area's risk as well as the types of hazardous weather that can affect your location is important. Identify or establish

the team responsible for emergency preparedness. Workplace safety and emergency strategies should include communication with local, state and federal law enforcement. Conduct regular safety drills to make sure everyone at your site is aware of what is expected. Weather emergency plans should align with existing emergency plans for the worksite. Periodically review the plan so that it is current and considers any relevant variables. Some things to incorporate into a severe weather plan include the following:

- Register for emergency alerts. In addition to any community-based system, also be aware of warnings from the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio.
- Develop a notification system that can be used to alert employees.

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## Weathering Storms During COVID-19

**Given the potential for damage, it is important to know how to prepare, respond, and recover in the event of a storm. The [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) website provides an extensive list of recommendations that can help you prepare for the different types of weather events that may be encountered in any season.**

**The websites for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org) have information and guidance specific to preparing and recovering from natural disasters during the pandemic.**

**The following websites have information and tips for staying safe and healthy during a variety of weather emergencies.**

- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)
- [Weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)
- [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org)

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- Identify on-site shelter areas, such as a FEMA safe room or ICC 500 storm shelter. A small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level not subject to flooding can also offer protection from strong winds. Determine how the space may be impacted by social distancing recommendations and stock additional supplies for disinfecting high touch areas.
- Become familiar with your evacuation zone, evacuation route, and shelter locations. Review the facility's emergency plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.
- Know how you will account for those on site and have a plan to provide for the safety of individuals with access or functional needs and those at higher risk for contracting community-spread illness.
- Have current emergency kits. Some items might be more difficult to procure, so consider restocking well in advance of a forecast storm. Maintain at least three days' worth of supplies in case power is lost or there is a delay in reopening stores. Remember to include first aid and wellness supplies such as hand sanitizer, disposable masks, gloves and medications.
- Keep important documents in a safe place or create password-protected digital copies.

## Safety Concerns During Hurricane Season

Hurricanes are experienced along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts in the U.S. Tropical cyclones—which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes—can produce a variety of hazards, including a storm surge, flooding, destructive winds, tornadoes, high surf and rip currents.

**Storm Surge**—Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. It is historically the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths and can travel several miles inland.

**Flooding**—Flooding is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling tropical cyclones. Torrential rains associated with these storms can cause flooding hundreds of miles inland which can persist for days after a storm.

**Dangerous Waves**—Dangerous waves produced by storm winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. They can cause deadly rip currents, beach erosion, and damage to coastal structures, even when the storm is more than 1,000 miles offshore.

**High Winds and Tornadoes**—Hurricane force winds can destroy buildings and turn signs, roofing material, and unsecured items into dangerous flying objects. Tornadoes can also accompany landfalling tropical cyclones.

For more information on this and other security related topics, visit the Securitas Safety Awareness Knowledge Center at <http://www.securitasinc.com/en/knowledge-center/security-and-safety-awareness-tips>