THINK SAFETY

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National Hurricane Preparedness Week is the first week of May

Are you ready for what could be a serious hurricane season? Here are three simple but impactful actions you can take to protect your business before the hurricane season starts:

1. DEVELOP A PLAN

- Define communication methods with employees and customers. Consider communication before, during and after the event.
- Identify evacuation routes, timelines and methods.
- Practice business continuity plans.
  - Determine how to shut down and then restart your business.
  - Define and develop methods to protect business records.
  - Have a plan and structure to remotely receive income, make payments and, if needed, reschedule appointments or conduct business meetings.

2. PREPARE FOR WIND

- Inspect buildings for points of vulnerability, especially overhead doors, windows, roof and siding.
  - Overhead doors are often the first part of the building to fail. Make sure they have a good seal. Additional bracing and support should be in place in advance of the hurricane.
  - Inspect roof materials and edging or flashing. Repair or replace worn or loose components.
  - Make sure there are enough window covers available or shutters are functional and structurally sound.
  - Inspect siding for loose or damaged components, especially the corners.
  - Prune or cut back trees with limbs that overhang buildings.
- Secure or protect items stored outdoors.
  - Move lighter items indoors. This can include garbage cans and small dumpsters, awnings and furniture.
  - Weigh down or secure stock items that can blow away or turn over.

3. PREPARE FOR HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODS

- Inspect roof drains and scuppers. Remove debris from the roof that could be blown off or could clog drains, downspouts and scuppers.
- Move vehicles and portable equipment to a location that is less susceptible to flood.
- Make sure sump pumps are working and the backup power supply (generator or battery) has been tested and can perform for several hours.

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