The purpose of this pamphlet is to specify general work practices that will safeguard those workers who may be involved in post-storm cleanup operations. If you need more detailed information, ask your supervisor, or contact your FSBIT Representative.

**Before the Storm (Your Home/Family):**
- Review your homeowner’s insurance for coverages and gaps in coverage (i.e. Floods)
- Place a copy of your policy in a secure place (Water tight, or scanned on a cloud server)
- Clear rain gutters and downspouts
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything not tied down
- Cover windows and brace doors (Storm shutters, 5/8” marine plywood)
- Stock tarps, plastic sheeting, lumber and fasteners to secure damaged areas
- Conduct a home inventory, especially of high value items (Record a video walk through)
- Secure and protect irreplaceable items and keepsakes (Consider wind & and water)
- Develop a family emergency plan. Learn community hurricane evacuation routes (and alternatives). Have family evacuation destinations planned out in advance. Consider food and water needs

**After the Storm (Your Home):**
- Assess your home for potential hazards and damages. Take pictures of damage prior to repair or cleanup
- If needed contact your insurance carrier. They may have contractors prequalified and lined up which will save you time and further damage
- Document, Document, Document!

**After the Storm (At Work):**

**General Practices:**
- Unskilled personnel should not be performing skilled clean-up work
- Only trained and experienced equipment operators should be operating equipment especially heavy equipment
- Do not work alone (work in small teams)
- Check work areas for pits, holes, or protruding objects
- Be alert for sharp or jagged debris

**Protective Equipment:**
- Wear heavy work gloves when handling sharp or abrasive materials (Hand injuries are the #1 injury during storm clean up)
- Wear disposable nitrile gloves when you may encounter infectious materials or harmful chemicals
- Wear safety glasses ALL THE TIME!
- Wear a hard hat for overhead hazards
- When working on or near water wear a personal flotation device (PFD)

**Heat Illness:**
- Take frequent breaks and pace yourself
• Schedule strenuous work for the coolest part of the day
• Wear light colored clothing
• Use sun screen
• Most importantly, DRINK WATER regularly!

**Flood Water Hazards:**
• Do not drive through standing water. 6” of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and potential stalling
• Flood water can contain infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and parasitic worms from human and animal waste
• Always practice good hygiene, wash hands frequently especially before eating

**Electrical Hazards:**
• Hazards include downed electrical wires, submerged electrical outlets/equipment or any conductive material in contact with a live circuit
• Avoid all power lines because the domino effect may pull other poles/lines down
• Don’t go into any room if water is covering cords or if water has reached the wall outlets or if you hear popping, buzzing, or see sparks
• Stay at a safe distance until power outage can be verified through a utility representative

**Dangerous Animals, Insects and Plants:**
• Be extra alert for dogs, rats, gators, snakes and insect nests. Storms can affect their behavior
• Avoid tall grass and check before you stick your hand in places, like debris piles
• Always wear heavy boots, pants and gloves to protect hands from insects and plants
• If you are experiencing skin irritation from plant contact wash with soap & water immediately

**Chain Saws:**
• Read and follow all the manufacturer’s instructions including labels or placards
• Ask a mentor or supervisor to provide coaching if in doubt!

• Wear eye, face, head, hearing, hand and leg protection when operating a saw. The often-overlooked leg protection (called chaps) are especially important since most chain saw injuries are to the operator’s lower legs!
• A dull chain is more dangerous. Always have lots of extra chains available for your saws
• Turn off the saw when refueling servicing or adjusting
• Fuel must be stored in approved safety cans. Use a funnel to prevent spills and fires
• Hold the saw against the ground when starting. Do not drop start your saw or secure it between your legs while starting
• Always keep BOTH hands on the handles when operating
• Kickbacks are extremely dangerous. Never contact anything with the upper tip of the chainsaw, always make sure your chainsaw brake is functional, and always wear your face/head protection.