



# Severe Weather Preparedness

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

## The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to protecting workers from fatal and life-changing events.

*Eastern Alliance is here to help. To learn more about Eastern's N3L3 program and access other safety resources, sign in and visit the Safety Tools on [www.easternalliance.com](http://www.easternalliance.com), or contact your Risk Management Consultant for assistance*

**1.855.533.3444**

**Severe weather can happen anytime. It can include severe thunderstorms, flash floods, fires, hurricanes, tornados or other events. Your business should understand the risks that may be present in your work environment and have plans in place to prepare for these events. Eastern Alliance Insurance has a list of items to guide you through these preparations.**

- **Emergency Action Plan-** Have emergency action plans in place that adequately address all potential emergencies including severe weather that can impact your organization or area. Review the procedures and conduct drills on a routine basis. Develop a system for knowing who is in the building so you can account for them in the event of an emergency. If you have field workers, ensure your emergency procedures address their exposures to severe weather or other emergencies as well.
- **Stay Tuned –** Pay close attention to weather forecasts and make necessary business decisions as early as possible. Keep weather radios on site and assign personnel responsible for monitoring.
- **Employee Contact Information –** Verify your employee contact database is current. Routinely update emergency contact information.
- **Employee Communication –** Ensure all employees are aware of your weather emergency communication plan and know how to find out about weather-related closings, evacuations, reopening of business, etc. For emergencies such as tornados, be sure employees are aware of what noise will sound or how they will be notified.
- **Shutdown Process –** Train and test the competency of key personnel and back-ups in how to safely shut down your critical operations to ensure a safe shutdown as well as a safe start-up. Encourage employees to review standard operating procedures.
- **Storm Preparedness –** Well in advance of a forecasted storm, secure doors and windows, function test sump pumps, fuel emergency generators and vehicles. Secure outdoor sheds, small buildings, gazebos, carports and any other exterior fixtures that may not be designed to withstand high winds. Secure exterior signs, benches, chairs, and plants that could become flying debris in the storm.
- **Disaster Plan Kit –** Make sure your kit is readily available. Things to include are: water for drinking and sanitation, food (recommended 3-day supply), battery-powered radio, flashlight, first aid kit, extra batteries, whistle to signal for help, moist towels, hand sanitizer, garbage bags, manual can opener, cell phone with chargers and backup battery.



# Severe Weather Preparedness

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

## The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to protecting workers from fatal and life-changing events.

*Eastern Alliance is here to help. To learn more about Eastern's N3L3 program and access other safety resources, sign in and visit the Safety Tools on [www.easternalliance.com](http://www.easternalliance.com), or contact your Risk Management Consultant for assistance*

**1.855.533.3444**

- Recovery Team – Designate employees to be members of a qualified recovery team for start-up after a storm. The team should be trained in recognition of the potential hazards that may exist after the storm and be equipped with personal protective equipment and tools to safely clean-up. The team should assess the damage and develop an action plan that addresses electrical hazards, gas exposures, structural damage, impaired fire systems and alarms, and critical production equipment.
- Risk Transfer – Well in advance of storm season, consideration should be given to pre-qualifying and making contingent arrangements with appropriate contractors to manage or assist with recovery. This is the time to have them provide you proof of liability and workers compensation insurance coverage. Using a subcontractor may appear to cost more in the short run, but letting the experts do the clean-up can prevent a costly workers' comp injury that will ultimately impact the life, livelihood and loved ones of one of your most valuable resources.

For more information regarding storm preparation visit:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html>