



Convective Storm

A Practical Guide for Preparation and Recovery

RECENT WEATHER TRENDS WORLDWIDE have shown an alarming increase in the intensity of weather events, a consequence of rising temperatures. As a result, convective storms are becoming more frequent and have resulted in over \$6 billion in property damage in the first half of 2023. Convective storms, known for their strong thunderstorms and winds, have gained attention for their potential to become “supercharged,” bringing with them a risk of flash flooding, lightning strikes, and hail damage. These powerful storms pose significant risks to both urban and rural areas. In order to minimize the risks and destruction caused these storms, it is crucial for property owners to be well-prepared.

This convective storm preparedness guide aims to provide essential information and practical advice on how to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from these severe storms. By following the recommended guidelines and adopting proactive measures, property owners can better protect their properties, and bolster overall resilience. Establishing emergency preparations, securing loose items, strengthening structures, and staying informed through reliable weather prediction systems are crucial steps in helping to reduce a storm’s impact.

Property owners can prepare for windstorm events well in advance by taking the following steps:

- Update the current plan or develop a convective storm emergency response plan to supplement the Site Emergency Response Plan.
- Assemble/inspect supplies needed in a secure location to respond to the storm’s impact including:
 - Portable pumps and hoses
 - Mops and squeegees
 - Sand and sandbags
 - Water vacuums Ropes and other fasteners
 - Portable lighting Power tools including saws
 - Plastic sheeting and tarps
 - Critical facility information/schematics/ property plans
 - Lumber and nails to secure tarps and sheeting

- Prepare a master list of all pre-qualified contractors, site management, utilities, local government, emergency services and key employees critical to post storm recovery.
- Evaluate all building openings, including windows, doors, vents and provide protection against wind-driven rain entry or flying projectile impact.
- Review the facility building(s) and repair weak structural components including unsecured roof mounted equipment and missing or weakly secured roof perimeter flashing and coverings.
- Repair any weakened door or window latches.

Once alerted to the potential of a severe weather event, property owners can take the following steps to secure their property to help minimize storm damage:

- Secure all exterior openings and inspect all roof areas and drains to assure they are not blocked or are in disrepair.
- Clean out catch basins, storm drains and other water diversion means that direct water away from important buildings and equipment.
- Secure exterior equipment and materials from impact from wind and flooding waters or becoming projectiles that damage the property.

Once the storm has passed and it is safe for personnel to leave their secure location(s), the following actions can be taken to speed recovery from the storm's impact:

- Conduct a damage assessment and have the Site Emergency Response Team report back to the Team Leader.
- Secure leaking natural gas or flammable/combustible liquids sources in a safe manner or notify the appropriate utility.
- Isolate and/or secure in a safe manner any damaged electrical lines or summon the utility.



- Summon contractors to secure the facility and begin repairs.
- Clean up exterior debris and inspect roof (if safe) to clear out clogged roof drains and other drainage systems.

While it is sometimes not possible to fully defend a property against convective storm damage, the steps above will help you better manage the storm's impact and optimize your recovery efforts.

And, in the event that an insurance claim needs to be filed for any property damage or business interruption loss, contact your Lockton Property Claims Specialist or Client Executive for additional assistance.