

SAFETY FIRST

MAJOR STORMS

Major storms such as hurricanes can generate significant amounts of waste, posing environmental and public health risks. Proper preparedness is crucial for resilience and recovery efforts.

Having emergency and disaster debris plans in place is important for the safety of workers and the public. Here are some tips to prepare for major storms:

- 1. Plan and Train:** Create and review emergency response plans with the team and staff.
- 2. Designate Safe Shelter Spaces:** Make sure the team and staff are aware of and can get to the predetermined safe location(s) before the storm hits.
- 3. Stock Supplies:** Prepare facilities with sandbags and other safety essentials such as first aid kits.
- 4. Secure Storage:** Properly secure and store hazardous waste and other materials that could cause further harm if spread or leaked.
- 5. Share Updates and Information:** Communicate with residents about changes to collection days, facility closures, and encourage them to stay off the roads and keep any waste and recycling carts secure. Make sure they know who to call with questions about waste and debris.
- 6. Make Post-Storm Preparations:** Develop a plan for cleaning up after the storm including partnering with other local agencies. Review the community's disaster debris management plan if one exists.



Planning and communication are the most important things to consider for keeping everyone safe. Team members should know what to do to protect themselves and their colleagues. In addition, safety planning should be in place to protect the facilities if a storm is approaching.

SWANA stands ready to support communities in safeguarding against the impacts of these powerful storms.

For more #SWANAsafety info and resources visit [SWANA.org/safety](https://www.swana.org/safety)



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