

Business, industry prepare for hurricane season

In industry, careful steps are taken to ensure preparedness procedures are in place for nearly every situation a plant might encounter. And so too with the businesses that serve those sites: they must be ready when they are needed.

BIC partners prepare for action

After Hurricane Katrina devastated the southern Gulf Coast, severe damage was done to a major oil refinery in the area. Due to the vital nature of the refinery and the needs it fulfilled for the southern Gulf Coast, it was imperative the refinery get up and running as soon as possible. There were no utilities to be found and without potable water, the refinery could not send employees into the zone. **Sparkling Clear Industries** was asked to provide whatever it could to help in the situation. Sparkling Clear Industries began sending in 5,000-gallon plastic water storage tanks, pumps to move the water, plastic piping with all the fittings to put it together and tanker trucks full of potable water so basic functions such

Whatever your need may be, you will find multiple companies in the "BIC Alliance Member Listings" that can answer your call.

as showering, flushing commodes, washing dishes, etc. could take place. The project was a success.

Over the past several years, **Garner Environmental Services Inc.** has been instrumental in providing turnkey installations of pumps, generators and other necessary equipment to get chemical plants and refineries back on line following a major disaster. Garner's experience with providing solutions to states and municipalities following various disasters ranging from hurricanes to ice storms has put them in a position of leadership for this type of service. Garner can provide experienced personnel that will assist customers in the planning and preparation. There is a very large return on investment in preplanning considering the cost of lost profit from unnecessary downtime.

Mascoat offers thermal insulating coatings to help combat winds and moisture intrusion from storms. If the high winds do not remove existing jacketing and conventional insulation altogether, there is still a chance of it creating gaps for moisture intrusion. With the average storm's total rainfall being 16 inches, saturated insulation (which severely reduces effectiveness) and

impending corrosion can follow the storm. Mascoat provides insulating coatings that will last for many years and have the ability to withstand the harsh conditions of a storm.

EQ — The Environmental Quality Co.'s Natural Disaster Response Program has the resources to help companies recover from catastrophic storm damage. EQ Emergency Response provides an "on-call" incident response service through its 24/7/365 emergency dispatch line.

EQ's Emergency Response team is staffed with trained, experienced professionals who have the resources to handle emergencies from storm damage from start to finish. This includes hazardous material cleanup and remediation, waste analysis and profiling, transportation, treatment and disposal. EQ operates with an extensive fleet of specialized equipment and materials to handle any emergency effectively, efficiently and cost effectively. EQ's zero retainer contract offers peace of mind, informing customers of all costs associated upfront should the need arise in the future.

ODIN Ltd. Industrial Demolition & Asset Recovery can help manufacturers prepare before a storm by selling surplus assets and removing them from the premises. After a storm, ODIN has the expertise to help those recover value for saleable or damaged assets.

"Manufacturing facilities should plan and prepare now for the high winds, flooding, loss of power and supplies, disruptions and devastation that may be caused by this year's hurricane season," said Mike Mitchum, president of ODIN Ltd.

ODIN would like to share a little advice that can save a lot of liability, damage and dollars: clean up the loose items in bone yards such as valves, process equipment, pipes, beams, sheet metal, old timbers and idled units that can become dangerous missiles. Remove items that can float such as empty storage tanks, accumulating drums or scrap piles.

Protecting company equipment, not only in the event of a facility blast but also during severe storms, is critical in any line of industrial work. **Hunter Buildings** can accommodate blast or hurricane shelter needs, whether the worksite is offshore or inland. Housing important technical components in a blast- or storm-resistant building ensures equipment reliability, keeping businesses on line and personnel safe and connected during a natural disaster. Published in June 2007, API RP 753 defined three concentric "zones," which encircle potential blast areas. Not all blast-resistant buildings are customizable. However, top-of-the-line blast-resistant buildings can be customized to exact specifications for disaster response

solutions with windows and specialty doors, including vision panels.

J. J. Keller & Associates reminds employers if employment records are lost on their organization's list of details to worry about when catastrophe strikes, their company might be taking a big risk. Preparedness makes all the difference in a disaster. A good first step is to identify which records are key to operations, both in the ordinary course of business and following a disaster. For example, aside from medical emergencies, lists of employees' emergency contacts are rarely used in the typical business day. However, this list may be extremely important in the hours after a major hurricane.

Next, examine possible methods of safeguarding this information or otherwise create contingency access to it. Consider electronic backup or off-site storage of important records but determine whether such systems will be secure. Be sure your organization is aware of its specific record-keeping requirements and reporting deadlines, and any possible extensions or allowances in the event of a disaster.

At **Clean Harbors**, the emergency preparedness procedures for the company and for its customers' call for formal plans that clearly identify personnel and responsibilities as well as lines of communications. At the same time, a comprehensive inventory of hazardous materials and their locations must be developed. A pre-hurricane plan should be put in place with clear guidelines on when it will be launched and detail when to call in the necessary resources early enough to prepare, secure and/or remove hazardous material from threatened areas. Then, tabletop exercises and rehearsals with plant personnel and outside emergency responders should be frequently conducted. Finally, it is critical to plan for the complete destruction of normal computer and communications capabilities, which requires planning for alternative communications and paper backup of all plans. Clean Harbors also helps customers respond to hurricane-related releases and spills on land and in water caused by leaking or totally destroyed lines, tanks and production facilities.

The **Ameri-Force** Disaster Recovery team specializes in pre-post man-made and natural disaster support. Ameri-Force offers support to companies during these difficult times by supplying a trained work force certified to handle immediate response efforts as well as general cleanup, debris removal and many others.

Partnering with the Ameri-Force Disaster Recovery team can help alleviate some of the pressure associated with the



disaster. Its account and project managers work with your pre-bid and post-award teams to craft a solution that brings value to your service offering. The company has experience in manning large projects meeting diverse work requirements from unskilled to skilled craftsmen. Its HS&E department has regional OSHA approved instructors that can train to various OSHA, Red Cross and NCCER standards.

For **Cooling Tower Resources (CTR)**, hurricane preparedness is serious business. It is a little bit different from a supplier standpoint but only as it pertains to inventory. Just like for most companies, CTR's preparedness is also directly tied into safety. First, make sure employees and their families are safe. Next, if it is safe to open up for business, investigate and ensure traffic corridors to and from work are free of any threats for injury or dangerous situations. CTR has at its disposal a power generator that can run the office equipment if the power is out. The generator came in very handy when Hurricane Ike hit several years ago as CTR was able to open up its doors and serve the refineries and process plants heavily damaged in the aftermath.

Brad Pirrung, CTR's general manager, remembers Ike like it was yesterday.

"We made sure all of our crews and families were safe," Pirrung said. "With many banks being closed, we facilitated getting cash to employees who could not access their bank accounts. We used our generator to open up for business and do what we do best: service our clients, so they get the materials they require when they need it at the jobsite."

Dupré Logistics, a nationally recognized leader of safety in the logistics and trucking industry, approaches hurricane season with the same attention to detail and philosophy of safe service that it does year round. With the company headquarters in Lafayette, La., and a strong presence in the Gulf Coast, Dupré is all too familiar with hurricane response. Dupré Director of Safety and Training Al LaCombe leads the efforts of the 1,300 person staff to work with its clients in preparing their facilities and the movement of supplies in the case of a storm.

"It is so important prior to the opening of the season we are in lockstep with our clients," LaCombe said. "As a provider whose role is to make sure shutdown and

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re-entry are as smooth as possible, our team as well as theirs should have corresponding plans.”

Dupré recommends plants and companies that rely on vendors make sure their providers are taking the necessary measures to prepare for a storm before the season begins.

Cherry has disaster planning and business recovery plans to safeguard Cherry employees and property, and align the business so it can recover, communicate and quickly get back into operation to retain customer operations. Disasters that could affect the business include hurricane, fire, flood, tornado, power and communication failure, and terrorism.

Routine preparedness includes daily backup of main computers and the storing of emergency supplies, such as plywood, rolls of plastic, trash bags, water and some food items, in a large company container. Once the supplies have been depleted, the container is used to store office equipment, computers, files and other critical items.

Cherry's hurricane disaster plans are based on storm categories beginning with a tropical disturbance and going through a category 5 hurricane. Each Cherry division has prepared its location with pre-cut plywood for windows and recommended items to have on hand.

According to **Novinium**, performing medium voltage power cable rejuvenation is crucial to hurricane preparedness. Even in “normal” environments, water begins to permeate cables as they age. Over time, the water within the cable degrades the dielectric strength of the insulation until — at some point — the voltage can no longer be contained, the cable faults and the lights go out. Hurricane conditions put additional stress on weak cables causing outages at a most inconvenient time. Cable rejuvenation strengthens cables, so when the plant starts up, there are no outages on critical circuits. Additionally, cables that go under water have no water intrusion into the cable strands because the cable rejuvenation process seals the cable ends, eliminating the necessity to dry or replace cables.

For cables that are not strengthened and sealed before a hurricane hits, performing cable rejuvenation prior to start-up can remove any water (especially saltwater) from the cable. Also, the cable ends are sealed, preventing any future water intrusion during hurricane events.

The **ALL** Family of Companies has 34 branches, including 14 branches in the south and three on the Gulf Coast. All branches have an emergency action plan in place, which includes severe weather. The company has severe weather drills annually for its office and yard personnel. Preparations begin as soon as they learn a hurricane is headed toward a branch and everything is secured from equipment to trashcans. ALL

makes sure all materials and equipment are moved from low lands that have “flooding potential.” All contaminate materials (oil, fuel, etc.) are secured and protected from flooding. Of course, lowering booms and tower cranes are in weathervane mode. ALL also ensures drainage ditch, pipes and floor grating are clear and removes any screening and signs from fences.

In ALL's preparation process the company also makes sure to have a full supply of fuel, gasoline, daily maintenance supplies and drinking water to be able to meet the demand of its customers after the storm has passed.

Even if you are not in a hurricane prone area, these practices are good guidelines for a family emergency plan according to Jason Stanford, safety and education director of **Mammoet**.

- Make a written family emergency plan. Where will you go? How will you get there? Include important phone numbers and details of your entire plan. Give copies to friends and family so they are aware of your plans.

- Have cash on hand in the event of phone and power outages. Keep cell phones charged.

- Create a supply kit: water, food, first aid, medication, clothing, etc. for three to seven days. If you evacuate, take along important documents.

- Secure your home. Pick up anything that may become airborne in high winds. Board or tape windows to prevent breakage.
- Prepare your vehicle. Make sure your preventive maintenance is done and your fuel tank is full. Have an engine checkup done and have any necessary repairs made before there is a need to evacuate.

Because **WorkSite Lighting** is based in Prairieville, La., hurricane preparedness is a part of life. The company's experience helps to keep the team prepared to provide support for all potential emergency situations. WorkSite Lighting maintains a 24-hour on-call status as well as a large inventory of hazardous location lighting and power distribution products for both sales and rentals to support its customers' immediate needs.

Quality products built specifically for hazardous environments, both on and offshore, combined with close proximity to the Gulf Coast allow for quick delivery and has made WorkSite Lighting a go-to company for lighting and power distribution solutions. Preparedness during the hurricane season is part of its ongoing commitment to provide the right products to its customers so they can prepare for, recover from or repair damage without endangering workers' safety due to improper lighting or power supply.

The attitude of “Quick response to ever-changing needs!” has been the key to **Plant Performance Services' (P2S)** success with past projects of vast size. P2S has proven

experience in emergency response and contingency planning due to natural disasters, including the Gulf Coast oil spill cleanup in 2010, Hurricane Katrina and hurricane recovery efforts for multiple refiners in 2006. P2S provides innovative solutions to eliminate the need for an emergency event, with proven results, increasing plant availability by using thorough preplanning and timely implementation of the plan.

During the Gulf Coast oil spill cleanup project, in less than two months, P2S hired and trained more than 9,000 qualified community responders (craft workers) in two counties in Alabama and 15 in Florida to assist with the Gulf Coast cleanup project. P2S has become a valuable part of its clients' manpower and rapid response needs and is relied upon to support public and private sectors with craft, supervision and staff, on both planned and emergency response work.

Kohler Rental has supplied the generators, chillers and power accessories to keep business running during several past hurricanes. “The key to preparation is having a strong partnership in place before the hurricane strikes,” said Steve Zielke, marketing manager of Kohler Rental Power. “We work with each customer to build a custom solution and assign a single point of conduct for emergency planning, response and recovery. This prepares each location with the equipment and power they need.”

Kohler offers standby, fixed and national account plans depending on company needs. Facilities on the standby plan pay for only the hours of support they use, but less risk-adverse businesses choose a fixed plan and receive up to 160 hours of running time per month. National account plans enable a business to cover a large number of facilities with only a small quantity of units due to unique “transfer” benefits. “The sooner you have power, the sooner your business can aid in the recovery effort and get back to profitability,” Ziekle said.

Prudent operations include the preparedness to respond to various upset

conditions. Weather events are governed by the emergency plan that is contained within the **NAES** Safety Manual. The emergency plan, designed to mitigate risk to the plant and to employees, outlines responses to various events such as a hurricane and provides emergency phone numbers. NAES plant staff is routinely trained in emergency preparations in order that the plan can be put into

effect whenever needed.

Sun Coast Resources is one of the nation's largest emergency fuel service providers, specializing in generator and on-site fueling during times of peril. Sun Coast also has a Mobile Field Command Center and a fleet of RVs for temporary housing for use in disaster response activities. Sun Coast provides fuel supply services and equipment to governmental agencies, utilities, communication companies, delivery services and other fleet operators when emergency situations, such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and other severe weather conditions and related disasters, create power interruptions, supply outages or access restrictions.

Sun Coast's fleet of more than 1,000 service vehicles and highly trained emergency staff provides specialized support where fuel requirements must be met. Contact Sun Coast's **EMERGENCY FUEL** division for emergency fuel, on-location tanks, dedicated trucks, generator fuel and other related services.

The sheer ruggedness of **A Box 4 U's** blast-resistant buildings makes them a good fit for hurricane and tornado conditions. Even with standard, unanchored lease units, these buildings can withstand up to a category 2 hurricane or an F2 tornado. Add tethers and outriggers, and those ratings go up substantially.

A Box 4 U's custom-built **SAFETY**suites are usually mounted to foundations, so they can be engineered to a much broader range of storm-readiness specifications, including FEMA P-361, which is required for community shelters that need to withstand EF5 tornados and category 5 hurricanes. When flood protection is required, SAFETYsuits can be mounted on piers or raised foundations, making them even better “ports in a storm.”

If you are in need of services or would like assistance planning your next emergency, please refer to the “BIC Alliance Member Listings” located in this and every issue of BIC. Whatever your need may be, you will find multiple companies there that can answer your call. ●

