# **GoalZERO RECOVERY**

Living through a major crisis produces many different types of feelings. You may feel anxiety, depression, confusion and tension. These feelings may cause a breakdown in our usual behavior, causing us to become stressed, which can lead to cutting corners and not stopping long enough to consider safety a number one priority right when we need it most.

As we recover from Harvey, we must remember to keep safety the number one priority at work and at home. Disaster cleanup work of any kind is dangerous, but flood conditions make it worse. The main concern following a hurricane is floodwater. Floodwater is typically contaminated with raw sewage and animal excrement. Health concerns include disease carried by the floodwater, including E. coli, salmonella, and hepatitis A virus. Warm water is a perfect environment for harmful bacteria to grow rapidly.

Remember to protect yourself from blisters. Blisters are often a less considered, but very common, injury that occurs during hurricane cleanup efforts. We must remember to keep our feet dry, change our socks often, and treat any blister quickly and aggressively. If you have a compromised ability to heal due to a health condition or medication, take extra precautions to avoid receiving blisters. As was mentioned above, the water from flooding is contaminated with bacteria that can accelerate infection in any open wound.

The following are various safety tips to consider while we begin the road to recovery from this unprecedented storm:

## **FLOODWATER**

- If you have an open cut or wound, don't go into floodwater if possible. If cut while
  in floodwater, clean the wound with soap as soon as possible. Rubbing alcohol
  will also help disinfect after the wound has been cleaned. If it has been more
  than 10 years since your last tetanus shot, get one whether you have been cut by
  something in the floodwater or not.
- To avoid waterborne diseases, wash your hands with soap especially before work breaks, meal breaks, and at the end of your shift.
- Do not attempt to drive in areas that are still flooded. Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.

# **GENERATORS/ELECTRICAL**

 Never use a generator inside home/buildings or near open windows. Carbon monoxide fumes from a generator can harm you and potentially kill you once it enters the bloodstream.

- Make sure any generator has 3-4 feet of clear space on all sides, including above, to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Ensure power cords and any extension cords used are not damaged and are not left on the ground or in wet areas. Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCl's) should be used in wet areas.

## **MOLD**

- Identify moisture problems and remove excess moisture with a wet-dry vacuum. Dry out any building as quickly as possible to reduce mold growth. Use fans to assist in the drying process. Vacuum areas that are clean and dry with a HEPA vacuum.
- Make sure working areas are well ventilated. Do not eat, drink, or smoke in work areas. Avoid breathing dusts. If you suspect the work area may be affected by mold wear the proper respiratory protection (N-95 or N-100 paper or cloth, negative air respirator with HEPA filters, or power supplied air purifying respirator). Surgical masks SHOULD NOT be used as they do not provide adequate protection. Wear disposable clothing to stop the spread of mold spores and dust contaminates if possible once cleanup is completed.

#### • From the CDC:

- Clean wet items/surfaces with detergent and water.
- For visible mold growth, use 1 cup to 1 gallon of water.
- For surfaces that have contacted floodwater, use 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water

# Additional Safety Considerations for Mold Cleanup Activities:

- DO NOT MIX BLEACH WITH CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN AMMONIA. Use approved respiratory protection and impervious gloves.
- Discard water/mold damaged material in plastic bags.
- Keep areas well ventilated.

## INSECTS/RODENTS/SNAKES

- Protect yourself from bites by using insect repellant containing DEET or Picaridin and by wearing long sleeves, long pants, socks, and high ankle shoes.
- Animals can spread diseases, either dead or alive. If you can't avoid contact, wear protective gloves, and wash your hands regularly.
- Watch where you place your hands and feet while removing debris. Wear heavy impervious gloves.
- If bitten by snake, note the color and shape of snake's head to assist with determining medical treatment. DO NOT CUT THE WOUND OR ATTEMPT TO SUCK OUT THE VENOM.

#### **REMOVING DEBRIS**

- Be careful when walking over and handling debris that is covered with water due to the increased risk of slips, trips, and falls. Do not walk on surfaces that you suspect may be unstable.
- Wear durable gloves to protect your hands while handling debris that may cause hand injuries or cuts. Wear safety glasses with side shields will help protect from dust particles.
- Pace yourself and take frequent rest breaks.

# GoalZERO Toolbox Talk HSEStoolbox@lyb.com



Remember to focus on the actions that keep you and your family safe during this time. Work safely and remember to check signals before beginning any recovery efforts, whether at work or home. Do not forget to check with your local municipal utility district for updates concerning the safety of your local drinking water.

As employees of LyondellBasell, many resources are available to us in this trying time. If you are in need of information dealing with flooded homes, accessing LyondellBasell's Disaster Relief Fund, or making donations to help affected employees please use the "Hurricane Harvey Employee Resources" page found in the News & Events section of the LyondellBasell home page or by use the following link: <a href="https://example.com/hurricane-harvey-employee-harvey-monopole-harvey-monopole-harvey-employee-harvey-employee-harvey-harvey-employee

We will recover as a community, as a company, and as a site because we strive for excellence in everything we do, we believe in being a responsible good neighbor in the communities where we operate, and we believe in the power of many.



