



# South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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## **SC OSHA Urges Safety Precautions for Response and Recovery Crews After Hurricane Helene**

Columbia, SC – In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration (SC OSHA) urges response and recovery crews, as well as residents in affected areas, to prioritize safety as they face hazards from flooding, power loss, structural damage, fallen trees, and storm debris.

Recovery efforts following the storm may involve dangerous activities such as restoring electricity and communications, clearing debris, repairing or replacing roofs, and trimming trees. SC OSHA strongly advises that individuals involved in recovery and cleanup operations be trained, experienced, and familiar with the equipment being used.

To ensure a safe and effective recovery process, SC OSHA recommends the following protective measures:

- Evaluate work areas for hazards such as unstable structures or debris that may shift or collapse.
- Assess the stability of structures and walking surfaces before entering or beginning work, ensuring they are safe for workers and volunteers.
- Use fall protection equipment when working from elevated surfaces, such as ladders or roofs, to prevent injuries from falls.
- Assume all power lines are live and avoid contact with downed or damaged lines.
- Operate chainsaws, portable generators, ladders, and other equipment properly, ensuring they are in good working condition and used according to safety guidelines.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, hard hats, hearing protection, foot protection, and eye protection to minimize injury.

SC OSHA remains committed to supporting South Carolina's recovery from Hurricane Helene. For more information on workplace safety during storm recovery, visit the SC OSHA website at [www.osha.llr.sc.gov](http://www.osha.llr.sc.gov).

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*About SC OSHA:*

*The South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration (SC OSHA), part of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR), works to ensure safe and healthy working conditions by setting and enforcing standards, and by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance.*

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