



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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SC OSHA Providing Assistance as South Carolina Recovers from Hurricane Helene

COLUMBIA, SC – As South Carolina continues to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, the South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration (SC OSHA) is offering critical safety assistance to emergency workers, employers, employees, and the general public in affected areas.

SC OSHA employees are on the ground, providing free safety supplies and advice on safe work practices to help minimize risks during recovery efforts. The supplies, which include hearing protection, safety glasses, gloves, dust masks, and reflective vests, are being distributed to those in need. SC OSHA staff will also stop to educate workers and residents on safety precautions when they observe potentially hazardous conditions.

“SC OSHA is committed to supporting those who are helping to clean and rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene,” said Kristina L. Baker, Deputy Director of Labor. “We are in compliance intervention mode and will continue our efforts for the next several weeks to ensure the safety of everyone involved in recovery operations.”

SC OSHA staff are actively traveling across impacted regions, monitoring cleanup activities. In situations where workers lack proper safety gear or are working in unsafe conditions, the team is stepping in to provide education and necessary protective equipment.

Anyone seeking safety guidance or supplies can contact the SC OSHA office at (803) 896-7665. In addition, SC OSHA offers a wide range of safety tips for those involved in the recovery process, including:

- Evaluate the work area for hazards.
- Use engineering or work practice controls to mitigate risks.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed.
- Assume all power lines are live.
- Use portable generators, saws, ladders, and vehicles safely and correctly.

- Follow safety guidelines for working in traffic zones.

For specific information on SC OSHA standards or to request safety assistance, please call (803) 896-7661.

Recovery from Hurricane Helene involves numerous potential hazards such as debris removal, tree trimming, power line safety, structural repairs, and hazardous waste handling. With proper precautions, training, and personal protective equipment, many of these risks can be mitigated.

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About SC OSHA:

The South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration (SC OSHA) is dedicated to ensuring safe and healthful working conditions for South Carolina's workforce by setting and enforcing standards, providing training, outreach, education, and assistance.

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