

## **Texas Department of Insurance**

Division of Workers' Compensation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 20, 2007 For Immediate Release FOR MORE INFORMATION John Greeley @ (512) 305-7132

## **TDI Publication Provides Safety Tips for Storm Clean Ups**

AUSTIN, TX— The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation is encouraging employers and employees to take safety precautions when performing recovery and cleanup after a tropical storm, hurricane or tornado.

Severe weather can cause significant damage and destruction, creating many hazards for workers responsible for recovery and cleanup. Law enforcement personnel, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and military personnel who are required to provide assistance during a natural disaster may also be required to help with recovery and cleanup. Contractors may be employed to help with these efforts. In addition, employees may be required to assist with recovery and cleanup at their worksite. All employees must beware of the many hazards that can cause fatalities, injuries or illnesses after a storm, such as downed power lines, gas leaks, exposure to hazards chemicals, damaged buildings and structures, falling objects and hazardous driving conditions.

For detailed safety information refer to the "Hurricane/Tornado Recovery Efforts and Clean-Up Hazards" fact sheet available in English and Spanish on the TDI website at <u>http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/information/videoresources/onlinepubsb.html</u>. Safety and health consultants with TDI's Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) program are available throughout the state to assist and provide guidance to employers faced with worksite recovery and cleanup. Contact OSHCON at 800-687-7080 or oshcon@tdi.state.tx.us.

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