



SAFETY TALK

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

February 2025

Disaster Day

February 5 is Disaster Day—a time to reflect on the many disasters that can impact our lives in order to reduce the potential damage caused by adverse events. Natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time. It's important to have a planned response when you're at work, on vacation or on the road.

Over the last five years, weather-related deaths are up 20% from 2019 and injuries have increased 120%, while the number of weather events have increased 11%. In 2023, 75,104 weather events resulted in 877 deaths and 3,857 injuries. Heat, wildfires, and tornadoes were responsible for the most deaths during 2023. The largest number of reported injuries resulted from heat, tornadoes, and winter weather. The deadliest weather events in the United States over the past five years include winter weather in 2021, drought and heat wave in 2023, and drought and heat wave in 2021.

Federal agencies, like Ready.gov and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are valuable resources for emergency preparedness. When you face a natural or man-made emergency, try to stay informed through radio, TV or the Internet. In some cases, however, cable, electric and cell phone service will be disabled, making communication nearly impossible.

Prior to any disaster, be sure to take the following precautions:

- Make sure at least one family member knows first aid and CPR
- Download the FEMA app for resources, weather alerts and safety tips
- Have a family communication plan in place; all members of the family should review and practice the plan
- Have all family members' and other important phone numbers written down or memorized
- Have an emergency kit in your car and at least three days of food and water at home
- Be sure to store all important documents – birth certificates, insurance policies, etc. – in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box
- Know how to shut off utilities

Date:	
Department:	
Supervisor (please print):	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: **Please Print Clearly**	Signature

Environmental Health and Safety

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Please share the safety talk, for the noted month, with your employees and sign off on this form. All others should read for themselves. Completed forms shall be kept on file by the department.