

## RISK MANAGEMENT

### FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

A Flood Emergency Response Plan (FERP) is a much more detailed document than a checklist. It helps reduce the potential for a flood-related loss at your facility. Once you have a FERP in place, review the plan annually, and have one—or more—drills. What are the advantages of having a FERP in place before a flood occurs at your facility?

#### A FERP HELPS YOU:

- Gain a thorough understanding of how a potential flood event could affect your facility
- Make your emergency response team (ERT) and/or other personnel aware of their roles during such an event
- Ensure you have adequate resources on hand

### What Your FERP Should Contain

- ✓ A designated person to activate the FERP, direct/redirect resources, and shut down production as needed
- ✓ A designated person to monitor flood levels, provide notification
- ✓ Description of potential events based on your location/proximity to flood zone/coastline
- ✓ Equipment listing of what is critical to operations
- ✓ Equipment shutdown procedures for production equipment and utilities
- ✓ Equipment and stock raising and/or relocation plans
- ✓ Plans to prevent water from entering the building, flood doors, sandbags, etc.
- ✓ Plans for employee welfare
- ✓ Lists of contractors to be used post flood
- ✓ Location of after flood salvage equipment
- ✓ Designated employees who likely will not have flood damage at their home
- ✓ Post flood salvage, recovery, and business recovery plans
- ✓ FERP training and regular drills based on your location



## When Flooding is Imminent

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- Monitor flood conditions and keep the ERT leader informed of water levels
- Relocate the following items:
  - ✓ High valued stock, critical equipment
  - ✓ Portable electronics, computers, testing and QC devices, dies and patterns
  - ✓ Important vehicles which will be needed post-flood
  - ✓ Critical drawings, records, files, and backup tapes
- Reduce fire risk during flooding:
  - ✓ Shut off electricity and natural gas
  - ✓ Install flood barriers around sprinkler risers, sprinkler valves and fire hydrants
- Maintain fire systems in service to maximum extent feasible. Report impairments to carriers.
- Shut down and drain flammable liquids piping
- Install approved flood barriers and flood abatement pumps
- Fill sandbags. Sandbag entry points to building, and critical production and protection equipment.
- Secure outside equipment
- Cover large stationary equipment with rust preventive coating
- Cover equipment with plastic sheeting
- Fill empty storage tanks
- Confirm sump pumps are in service
- Close any valves which will prevent backflow through floor drains or plumbing
- Check roof, floor, and yard drains to ensure they stay clear
- Notify salvage contractors
- Ensure salvage crew in the FERP is ready to act once safe to do so

## After the Flood

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- Do not enter without approval of the local authorities
- Do not re-enter the site without proper PPE
- Activate salvage team on the FERP, dry equipment, dehumidify critical areas/equipment
- Maintain fire protection equipment in service, restore any impaired fire protection equipment
- Test any system affected by the flood
- Use hot work permits for any necessary repair work
- Assess flood impact, determine immediate needs, initiate cleanup and repair operations
- Initiate Business Continuity Plan if necessary
- Check damaged buildings for stability
- Check for spilled ignitable liquids
- Remove standing water from the facility
- Clean and dry critical equipment (as identified in your FERP)
- Check, clean, test electrical equipment
- Dehumidify damp areas and dry wet insulation
- Remove flood debris
- Modify FERP for next time based on lessons learned
- Notify broker/carrier of damage. File claim as necessary. Document damage with pictures.

These precautions can help minimize the risk at your facility. Every site is different in how susceptible the site is, and how susceptible your operations are to flooding. Pre-planning for your site is the best way to reduce your risk.

### Want to Learn More?



### CONTACT

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