

# Businesses ready to assist through hurricane season



Plants are continually preparing and training for disasters. With hurricane season upon us, being prepared is everything. Having a strong support system ready when needed is key to safety and recovery. BIC Alliance member companies' varied offerings can bring you sustainability and peace of mind in hurricane preparation, response and recovery.

## Ready to assist

A **Box 4 U** has designed and developed an NSSA (National Storm Shelter Association) certified storm shelter. Debris impact tests at The Wind Science and Engineering Research Center (WiSE) have been successfully completed. A Box 4 U storm shelters comply with all Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 361 requirements and is the only blast-resistant building manufacturer authorized to affix NSSA seals.

These certified storm shelters have a maximum occupancy of 83 people and are proven to withstand sustained wind speeds of 250 mph, worst-case scenario debris impacts experienced in an EF-5 tornado. This means A Box 4 U provides safe space for personnel not only in blast events but in storm events as well. Each

## Whatever your need may be, you will find multiple companies in the "BIC Alliance Member Listing" that can answer your call.

shelter is equipped with emergency lighting, gravity ventilation, hand washing stations, chemical toilets and fire extinguishers to ensure the continued safety of its occupants for hours after a storm event.

**ABS Group** helps clients manage their risks and minimize interruption of their operations as a preventive action for storms and natural disasters. ABS Group develops catastrophe models and performs risk management services to help clients understand the risks they face, identify and evaluate solutions for managing risks, and communicate decisions to key stakeholders.

ABS Group helps public and private sector clients around the world protect people and infrastructure by leveraging the data from risk models to develop innovative risk management strategies that span the spectrum of preparedness activities — prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover. The company's catastrophe risk models are relied on by the international

insurance and reinsurance industries for their highly accurate loss estimates.

Throughout Hurricane Sandy, **ABS Group** provided storm surge models, wind field maps and insured exposure data as well as a model of the storm's effects. Information within these models included the estimated storm impact, loss validation, key storm factors and regional wind reports, all of which were vital for insurers, reinsurers, financial analysts, media and the general public.

With its roots deep in South Louisiana, **Acadian Ambulance** is no stranger to hurricanes. An emergency and non-emergency medical transportation provider to Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, Acadian is always prepared and has an Evacuation Response Operations Center (EROC) it activates in times of natural disasters. EROC consists of a specialized team of operations and support staff dedicated to coordinating the evacuation of health care facilities and whatever other assistance communities need.

Acadian has come to the aid of the Gulf Coast region during Hurricanes Carmen, Babe, Juan, Andrew, Danny, Lili, Ivan, Katrina and Isaac. Katrina was one of the most devastating natural disasters in the history of the country, and put Acadian to its greatest test. The company offered more than 200 ambulances, seven helicopters and 2,000 employees to help all of the individuals who were injured and stranded by this tragedy. For their efforts during the massive hurricane, they were honored numerous times. During one award ceremony, former President George H.W. Bush said, "I can think of no greater honor than being allowed to participate in this tribute to the men and women of Acadian Ambulance, who were at the forefront of one of the greatest rescue and relief efforts in the history of our nation."

**AGS Solutions Inc.** can help customers with their hurricane preparedness plan by providing biodegradable cleaners for the aftermath of hurricane-related spills, leaks and releases. Post-hurricane, AGS Solutions provides customers, such as industrial plants and emergency responders alike, with quick deployment of approved biodegradable cleaners for land and waterway cleanup in the Gulf Coast region. If a customer needs to clean up on or near the water, the AGS surface washing agents and a dispersant are on the EPA National Contingency Plan Schedule for these type of cleanup activities. In order to quickly clean up from weather-related disasters, such as a hurricane, having the correct cleaners makes the difference in downtime and expense. After Hurricane

Ike, one major lube plant was up and running in three days with the help of the AGS Solutions' cleaners clearing the roads and plant of slick oil from the destruction of the hurricane.

The **ALL Family of Companies** has 34 branches, including 14 branches in the south and three on the Gulf Coast. All branches have an emergency action plan in place, which includes severe weather. The company has severe weather drills annually for its office and yard personnel. Preparations begin as soon as they learn a hurricane is headed toward a branch and everything is secured from equipment to trashcans. ALL makes sure all materials and equipment are moved from low lands that have "flooding potential." All contaminate materials (oil, fuel, etc.) are secured and protected from flooding. Of course, lowering booms and tower cranes are in weathervane mode. ALL also ensures drainage ditch, pipes and floor grating are clear and removes any screening and signs from fences.

In ALL's preparation process, the company also makes sure to have a full supply of fuel, gasoline, daily maintenance supplies and drinking water to be able to meet the demand of its customers after the storm has passed.

When it comes to storms and hurricanes, there is a force in the Houston area for emergency response in fueling and lubrication. **Apache Oil Company** stands ready to help in any situation, large or small. Its agile team has multiple storm experiences, and local leadership makes decisions that promote fast customer response time.

With more than 35 vehicles ranging from transport trucks to bobtail fuelers and lubricant dispensing trucks as well as package delivery vehicles right down to 4 wheelers, light towers, temporary housing and temporary storage tanks on wheels, Apache Oil Company offers powerful flexibility in recovery. And Apache Oil Company isn't just fuel. Its \$6 million inventory stands ready to serve your lubrication, equipment and Baldwin Filter needs after a storm.

Reserve your storm fuel storage tanks in advance and Apache Oil Company will deliver them 48 hours before storm landfall, so you are ready to go as you resume operations.

**CavCom Inc.** provides plant personnel and emergency responders with clear communication during times of severe weather. In a hurricane or intense storm, radio transmissions can become garbled with interference from high winds, rain, sirens and machine alarms. Security per-

sonnel, fire brigades, Haz-Mat teams, control room operators and foot crews inspecting and repairing damage all need to coordinate efforts under difficult circumstances. Workers and subcontractors may be required to repair damage in confined spaces and are often outfitted with special protective equipment such as self-contained breathing apparatuses. Traditional means of communication (intercoms, telephone lines and cell phones) may not be operational during a severe storm. Two-way radios are often a company's best means of coordinating efforts during storms and power outages. CavCom's unique lightweight "in the ear" technology interfaces with a company's existing radio communication system and is compatible with a variety of PPE. Users report superior communication amidst high background noise without sacrificing comfort and safety. CavCom works with companies to develop customized solutions for effective communication and minimal downtime during and after a storm.

**Cherry** has disaster planning and business recovery plans to safeguard Cherry employees and property, and align the business so it can recover, communicate and quickly get back into operation to retain customer operations. Disasters that could affect the business include hurricane, fire, flood, tornado, power and communication failure, and terrorism.

Routine preparedness includes daily backup of main computers and the storing of emergency supplies, such as plywood, rolls of plastic, trash bags, water and some food items, in a large company container. Once the supplies have been depleted, the container is used to store office equipment, computers, files and other critical items.

Cherry's hurricane disaster plans are based on storm categories beginning with a tropical disturbance and going through a category 5 hurricane. Each Cherry division has prepared its location with precut plywood for windows and recommended items to have on hand.

At **Clean Harbors**, the emergency preparedness procedures for the company and for its customers call for formal plans that clearly identify personnel and responsibilities as well as lines of communications. At the same time, a comprehensive inventory of hazardous materials and their locations must be developed. A pre-hurricane plan should be put in place with clear guidelines on when it will be launched and detail when to call in the necessary resources early enough to prepare, secure and/or remove

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hazardous material from threatened areas. Then, tabletop exercises and rehearsals with plant personnel and outside emergency responders should be frequently conducted. Finally, it is critical to plan for the complete destruction of normal computer and communications capabilities, which requires planning for alternative communications and paper backup of all plans. Clean Harbors also helps customers respond to hurricane-related releases and spills on land and in water caused by leaking or totally destroyed lines, tanks and production facilities.

**Empire Scaffold** has a set hurricane plan to provide the best and most cost-efficient manner of dealing with the threat and occurrence of hurricanes. Empire Scaffold Corporate Support/Marketing Manager Brandon Collins also recommends facilities acquire an on-site lay-down yard of miscellaneous scaffold material prior to hurricane season.

“Having the material already on site and ready to be erected to access any damage the storm may have caused is critical in time management and cost,” Collins said. “Empire Scaffold can freight in material and stage it at the facility prior to the season, and if a hurricane was to hit and cause damage, laborers could be sent to begin erecting the material.”

**Gulf Coast Dismantling Inc.** (GCD), with 22 years on the Gulf Coast, has always been active in preparations for the arrival of a storm and, afterward, the company stands ready to provide all possible assistance to the vital area industries to facilitate resumption of normal business operations. GCD is an expert in demolition and asbestos abatement as well as site restoration when the old stuff is gone.

Before the arrival of a hurricane, GCD can clean up laydown yards and bone yards to prevent surplus materials from becoming flying objects and a liability. The company recommends removal of asbestos containing materials before a storm rather than try to find them afterward.

After the skies clear, GCD will help get your area cleared of debris so your company can resume operations in the least amount of time.

**Honeywell Safety Products** (HSP) offers a comprehensive array of head-to-toe PPE and solutions to protect workers during normal and extreme weather conditions. The solutions range from world-class respiratory products that are critical to post-hurricane cleanup efforts to North brand lock-out tag-out products to isolate equipment that must be shut down during hurricane preparations.

For “hurricane duty” workers who must remain on site during the storm, in addition to normally required PPE for the site, high-viz rainwear and water-resistant footwear are essential for keeping workers visible and dry.

Hurricane cleanup presents a special array of hazards for workers tasked with restoring the jobsite, plant and equipment to pre-storm conditions. Safety eye-

wear and goggles, faceshields, disposable coveralls and gloves, along with confined space and respiratory protection for remediation work, ensure cleanup crews have the extra level of protection needed against any new hazards created by the storm. HSP also offers products like caution or barricade tap and traffic cones to isolate areas that become safety hazards during and after the storm.

The onset of a hurricane is predictable, allowing time to prepare. **J. J. Keller & Associates** reminds facility operators of their obligation under several EPA programs to operate facilities safely. Owners/operators have a duty to prevent accidental releases of hazardous substances and to minimize the consequences of accidental releases that do occur.

Before a hurricane, review operational events during previous hazardous weather events and take appropriate steps to prevent similar incidents. Where appropriate, safely shut down processes, or otherwise operate under emergency procedures. Review emergency response plans and make sure contacts are current. Make sure all essential personnel are trained to shut down and start-up systems in case of emergency. Finally, remember facilities that experience process shutdown related or hazardous weather induced releases, spills or discharges into the environment must alert the National Response Center, and appropriate State Emergency Response Commission contacts and local emergency planning committees, immediately upon having constructive knowledge that such releases, spills or discharges exceed applicable reportable quantities.

**Mascoat** offers thermal insulating coatings to help combat winds and moisture intrusion from storms. If the high winds do not remove existing jacketing and conventional insulation altogether, there is still a chance of it creating gaps for moisture intrusion. With the average storm’s total rainfall being 16 inches, saturated insulation (which severely reduces effectiveness) and impending corrosion can follow the storm. Mascoat provides insulating coatings that will last for many years and have the ability to withstand the harsh conditions of a storm.

Prudent operations include the preparedness to respond to various upset conditions. Weather events are governed by the emergency plan that is contained within the **NAES Safety Manual**. The emergency plan, designed to mitigate risk to the plant and to employees, outlines responses to various events such as a hurricane and provides emergency phone numbers. NAES plant staff is routinely trained in emergency preparations in order that the plan can be put into effect whenever needed.

Workers are not always able to wait for the storm to pass to respond to outages and emergency maintenance. For those situations, **NASCO Industries** offers a storm preparedness program to provide the crucial flame-resistant rainwear to

allow workers to be able to work in all conditions and remain dry and safe. Protecting this irreplaceable resource is often overlooked in storm preparedness. From local distribution to 24-hour emergency response, NASCO’s goal is to get the necessary protection in the hands of those who need it.

The attitude of “Quick response to everchanging needs!” has been the key to **Plant Performance Services’** (P2S) success with past projects of vast size. P2S has proven experience in emergency response and contingency planning due to natural disasters, including the Gulf Coast oil spill cleanup in 2010, Hurricane Katrina and hurricane recovery efforts for multiple refiners in 2006. P2S provides innovative solutions to eliminate the need for an emergency event, with proven results, increasing plant availability by using thorough preplanning and timely implementation of the plan.

During the Gulf Coast oil spill cleanup project, in less than two months, P2S hired and trained more than 9,000 qualified community responders (craft workers) in two counties in Alabama and 15 in Florida to assist with the Gulf Coast cleanup project. P2S has become a valuable part of its clients’ manpower and rapid response needs and is relied upon to support public and private sectors with craft, supervision and staff, on both planned and emergency response work.

**Sun Coast Resources Inc.** has been tested over and over again during the most extreme natural disasters, with the most recent being in the northeast with the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, and in Mississippi with the horrific destruction from tornadoes in that region. Sun Coast has an extensive arsenal of nearly 1,000 pieces of emergency response fueling equipment and a like number of professional Haz-Mat-certified employee drivers, coupled with vast expertise in providing fuel for power generation, vehicles and any other fuel-powered equipment during periods of peril. Sun Coast has an elite emergency response team of professionals who can react very quickly, anywhere in the country, any time of the day or night.

Sun Coast also has Mobile Command Centers, Emergency Mobile Sleeping Quarters and provides turnkey disaster fueling response around the clock, whatever or wherever the calamity. Moreover, Sun Coast can provide on-site fuel trucks and storage tanks with or without dedicated drivers and fueling personnel. Operations of every sort should have an emergency response plan in place to deal with natural disasters. Preplanning is a key component in being prepared for the impact of storms, floods, fires or any devastating event. Many fail to recognize that during disasters electrical power is interrupted for days or even weeks in some cases. That’s where Sun Coast is at its best.

**SWS Environmental Services** has been providing disaster response, cleanup

and recovery services for several decades. From hurricanes to tornadoes and from forest fires to floods, SWS Environmental Services has always been involved in aiding government and industry in the aftermath of natural disasters. SWS Environmental Services has provided these services in support of some of the nation’s most memorable hurricanes — Andrew, Charlie, Ike, Ivan, Katrina, Opal, Rita and Wilma.

The success of a disaster response, cleanup and recovery project requires the availability of tremendous resources — experienced and knowledgeable personnel, versatile and dependable equipment, financial strength and logistical expertise. SWS Environmental Services possesses all these things and is prepared to deploy personnel and resources at a moment’s notice. The strength of its services comes from experienced management in dealing with disasters and emergency response incidents over the past three decades, and the proximity of 10 response centers within 25 miles of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coastlines.

With hurricane season upon us, now is the time to consider your options before an emergency strikes. **Trillium Industrial Services** stands by a large pool of talent ready to hit the ground running at a moment’s notice. In a time of emergency, having skilled, ready to go workers is invaluable to your business and your bottom line. Being prepared for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tropical storms, will set you apart from the competition and give you the peace of mind of being ready to act when the time is right.

**WorkSite Lighting** is based in Prairieville, La. Being located in the heart of “hurricane alley,” emergency preparedness is a part of life. Experience, diversity and innovation keep the WorkSite Lighting team stocked and ready to provide lighting and power distribution for all potential emergency situations. WorkSite Lighting maintains a 24-hour on-call and emergency status 365 days a year, keeping a large inventory of hazardous location lighting and power distribution products for sale and rent.

WorkSite Lighting provides quality products built specifically for hazardous and explosion-proof environments, both on and offshore. Close proximity to areas affected by hurricane season allows for speedy response and delivery. WorkSite Lighting is the “go-to” manufacturer for lighting and power distribution. Preparedness is a part of WorkSite Lighting’s ongoing commitment to providing the correct and most versatile lighting products to customers preparing for or recovering from disasters without endangering workers’ safety.

If you are in need of services or would like assistance planning your next emergency, please refer to the “BIC Alliance Member Listings” located in this and every issue of BIC. Whatever your need may be, you will find multiple companies there that can answer your call. ●