

CLICK HERE

FeaturedProduct

HILLYARD C2™

Touch-Free
Cleaning Simplified
and
More Affordable
Than Ever Before!



[Click here for today's breaking news](#)

Develop a business emergency preparedness plan today at [ready.gov](#).
Download free, easy-to-use checklists, templates and more. [CLICK HERE](#)



Keyword Search of CMM Online's Archives:



News and Article Topics

- [Archives](#)
- [Building Service Contract Cleaning](#)
- [Carpet/Floor Cleaning](#)
- [Distribution/Warehouse Issues](#)
- [e-Commerce](#)
- [Environmental Issues](#)
- [In-house Cleaning](#)
- [Industry Trends](#)
- [Labor/Employees/Training](#)
- [Legal/Government/Compliance Issues](#)
- [Manufacturers](#)
- [Quick Hits](#)
- [Sales and Marketing](#)

Specialized News/How To Tips

- [Cleaning for Health®](#)
- [Commercial Carpet Care](#)
- [Contract Cleaning](#)
- [Facilities Carpet Care](#)
- [Floor Care](#)
- [Mold Remediation](#)
- [Mold Remediation Quiz](#)
- [No-Touch Cleaning](#)
- [Online Purchasing](#)
- [The Great Debate](#)
- [Upright Vacuum](#)

Subscribe now
Click here

Hurricane cleanup — take precautions

by Robert Kravitz

As we know, the recent hurricanes along the Gulf and East Coasts have caused havoc and disaster for a great number of people.



Disaster cleanup calls for much planning and preparation.

But the cleanup operations, just now beginning, can also pose dangers, according to Mike Sawchuk, vice president of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada-based Enviro-Solutions, manufacturer of green cleaning chemicals.

“Cleaning professionals must be aware of these dangers for their own health and safety — which must always come first,” Sawchuk said.

Among the potential hazards he mentions are:

- Flooded buildings
- Damaged and potentially “hot” power lines and electrical equipment
- Unstable buildings
- Wild or stray animals
- Carbon monoxide or leaking gases from stoves, generators, and other sources
- Mosquitoes and other insects
- Mold
- Potentially hazardous cleaning chemicals improperly mixed or applied

Another serious problem after a hurricane is odor and airborne contaminants.

“Odors from human and animal remains, as well as airborne dust, mold spores, VOCs [volatile organic compounds], and asbestos fibers are common

Site Menu

[Home](#)
[i-Focus Info Centers](#)
[CMI® Events](#)
[Cleaning Management Institute](#)
[Article Archives](#)
[Online Buyers Guide](#)
[CM Jobs Board™](#)
[Training & Education](#)
[Calendar Directory](#)
[New Products](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Bulletin Board](#)
[Email Forum](#)
[Web Links](#)
[Rent Our Mailing Lists](#)
[Headline News Service](#)
[Advertising](#)
[About Us](#)
[Poll Archives](#)
[Register](#)
[Subscriber Services](#)

This Month's Issue:

- [In the eye of the storm](#)
- [24-Hour opportunities and challenges](#)
- [The Great Debate™](#)
- [Restroom Cleaning Case Studies](#)

Sign up today for your
free subscription

CM
e-News Daily

once cleanup and reconstruction work begins,” Sawchuk said.

“Workers should wear government-certified respirators, gloves, and goggles, as well as disposable coveralls, full-body clothing, headgear, and watertight foot coverings.”

Adding fuel to the fire

It is not uncommon for cleanup workers to use large amounts of powerful cleaning chemicals to deal with a disaster, according to Sawchuk.

“However, this can cause even more problems, not only for the cleaning workers, but also for building occupants once they return to their homes, schools and offices,” he said.

Sawchuk suggested that cleaning professionals use environmentally preferable cleaning products because they tend to be safer to use and less harmful to the already-battered environment.

He also advised cleaning workers to always follow manufacturers’ instructions when using any cleaning chemicals — green or not — along with wearing personal protective gear (listed above).

He suggests planning and preparing for the cleanup operation by taking such steps as these:

- **Work from a plan.** All disaster cleanup operations should follow a well-thought-out, step-by-step, written plan. And one of the top priorities of the plan is worker safety first.
- **Clean for health.** Avoid the tendency, as mentioned earlier, to use more chemicals than may actually be needed. In all cleanup situations, including disasters, the health of cleaning workers, building occupants when they return to the facilities, as well as the environment is paramount.
- **Make sure that first aid equipment is readily available and that supervisors and workers know how to use it.** There must also be easy access to emergency care and injury “fact sheets”. Of great importance is eye protection. Dust, construction and metal particulates, chemicals, and gases, all of which can injure the eye, are major concerns in disaster cleanup.
- **As part of the cleanup plan, decide which chemicals, cleaning tools, and equipment to use.** Read instructions, and review chemical ingredients. Because of the many safety issues involved in disaster cleanup, consider environmentally preferable cleaning products to help reduce cleaning hazards.
- **Remove all water-soaked items from the structure,** including furniture, draperies, and carpets to get to the “bones” of the building.
- **Clean from the top down, starting at the ceiling.** This helps minimize the resoiling of areas already cleaned.

Robert Kravitz, president, AlturaSolutions Communications, Chicago, is a former building service contractor and author of four books about the JanSan industry.

All Content Copyright 2005
National Trade Publications Inc.

[Click Here](#) for details on our [Privacy Policy](#)

This site best viewed with: [NETSCAPE 4.7](#) or [Internet Explorer](#) .