

# Critical Steps for Property Owners After a Major Storm Hits

HAMMOND, LA, UNITED STATES, February 11, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In the aftermath of a major storm, property owners face the daunting task of assessing and managing the damage while ensuring the safety of their homes and businesses. Storms can cause a wide range of damage, from flooding and wind destruction to structural instability. Knowing what to do immediately following a storm can significantly reduce further damage, prevent health hazards, and speed up the recovery process.

[Earl Carr, Jr.](#), president of [Gulf 52](#), a company specializing in disaster recovery, provides expert advice for property owners on the critical steps to take after a major storm. "The immediate actions taken after a storm can determine the long-term condition of a property," Carr states. "By acting quickly and carefully, property owners can mitigate further damage, protect their investment, and begin the recovery process."



## 1. Ensure Safety Before Entering the Property

Safety is the first priority following a storm. While it may be tempting to assess the damage immediately, it is essential that property owners ensure their environment is safe before entering. Storms can cause hidden dangers, such as downed power lines, unstable structures, or flooded areas, all of which pose significant risks to personal safety.

Property owners should stay clear of standing water, as it may contain hazardous materials or be electrically charged. If flooding occurred, avoid walking through water, as it may conceal debris or dangerous contaminants. Additionally, ensure that the structure of the building is stable before re-entering, especially if there are visible signs of damage to the roof, walls, or



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foundation.

“Before any damage assessment can begin, the primary concern should always be safety,” Carr advises. “A property may appear safe from the outside, but structural or environmental hazards may still exist.”

## 2. Document the Damage

Once it is safe to enter, property owners should begin documenting the damage for insurance purposes and restoration planning. This includes taking photographs or videos of the damage to buildings, vehicles, landscaping, and personal property. Documentation should be as thorough as possible to provide a complete record for insurance claims and future repairs.

In addition to photographs, it’s essential to record any visible water levels, debris, or structural damage. If possible, mark the height of floodwaters or other damaging elements to help insurance adjusters understand the extent of the damage. Detailed records of the damage can help ensure that all losses are covered by the property’s insurance policy.

“Thorough documentation is vital for both insurance claims and the restoration process,” Carr explains. “This is the evidence that will guide the claims adjusters and contractors, so it’s important to be as detailed as possible.”

## 3. Contact Insurance Providers

After documenting the damage, property owners should promptly contact their insurance providers to report the storm damage. Insurance companies typically have a set process for filing claims, and notifying them as soon as possible can expedite the process. Many companies also have emergency response teams available to assist property owners in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

When filing a claim, property owners should provide the documentation they’ve gathered, including photographs, videos, and a detailed description of the damage. It may also be helpful to make a list of damaged or destroyed items for the insurance company. Insurance policies may cover a range of damages, from structural repairs to personal property losses, and having a detailed claim can increase the chances of receiving full compensation.

“It’s essential to contact the insurance company as soon as possible,” Carr emphasizes.

“Insurance companies may be overwhelmed with claims following a major storm, so quick reporting can help prioritize a claim.”

## 4. Begin Immediate Clean-Up and Prevent Further Damage

After the initial assessments and after receiving insurance instructions, property owners should begin the clean-up process to prevent further damage. This includes removing standing water,

securing the property, and mitigating environmental hazards.

In flood situations, property owners should try to drain water from affected areas as quickly as possible to prevent long-term water damage. Use pumps, wet vacuums, or even brooms to clear the water and prevent further damage to walls, flooring, and personal belongings. Additionally, owners should remove any waterlogged items that can be salvaged, such as furniture, clothing, or electronics, to prevent mold growth.

In cases of wind damage, securing broken windows, doors, or roofing materials is critical to prevent the elements from further affecting the structure. Temporary tarps or plastic sheeting can help protect the property until more permanent repairs can be made.

“Clean-up efforts should be immediate and strategic,” Carr advises. “The faster water and debris are removed, the less damage the property will experience.”

#### 5. Assess and Repair Structural Damage

Once the clean-up is underway, property owners should assess the structural integrity of the property. Look for signs of damage to the roof, foundation, and load-bearing walls, as these can compromise the safety of the structure. In some cases, damage may not be immediately apparent and could worsen over time if left unaddressed.

If there is significant structural damage, it's important to contact a professional who specializes in disaster recovery and restoration. Engineers and contractors can inspect the property and provide guidance on necessary repairs. Structural repairs may involve reinforcing walls, replacing damaged roofing materials, or addressing any foundation issues caused by flooding or shifting ground.

Carr notes, “Addressing structural damage promptly is essential. Even small issues, if left unresolved, can lead to major problems down the line.”

#### 6. Consider Long-Term Restoration and Flood Mitigation Solutions

After addressing immediate safety concerns and completing necessary repairs, property owners should begin considering long-term solutions to minimize future damage. This may include floodproofing the property or investing in reinforced construction materials that can withstand future storms.

Flood mitigation strategies may include raising the building's elevation, improving drainage systems, and installing sump pumps or flood barriers to prevent water from entering the property. Investing in these measures can not only help prevent damage from future storms but may also lower insurance premiums in areas prone to flooding.

“We always recommend considering flood mitigation solutions after a disaster,” Carr explains. “These solutions can provide long-term protection and reduce the risk of similar damage

occurring in the future.”

## Conclusion

Dealing with the aftermath of a major storm is a stressful and challenging process for any property owner. However, taking the right steps in the immediate aftermath can make a significant difference in the long-term recovery and restoration of the property. By ensuring safety, documenting the damage, contacting insurance providers, and beginning clean-up efforts as soon as possible, property owners can protect their investments and expedite the restoration process.

At Gulf 52, the focus is on providing comprehensive disaster recovery services that help property owners recover quickly and effectively. Through careful planning, strategic clean-up, and long-term solutions, properties can be restored to their pre-storm condition and better prepared for future events.

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