

Loss Control Perspectives

Hurricane Preparedness

Awareness and concern for natural hazards has increased significantly in recent years. Hurricane seasons runs from early Spring through November, and if you are near a coast, you are at risk each year. Site preparedness is integral in limiting loss potential to your facilities.



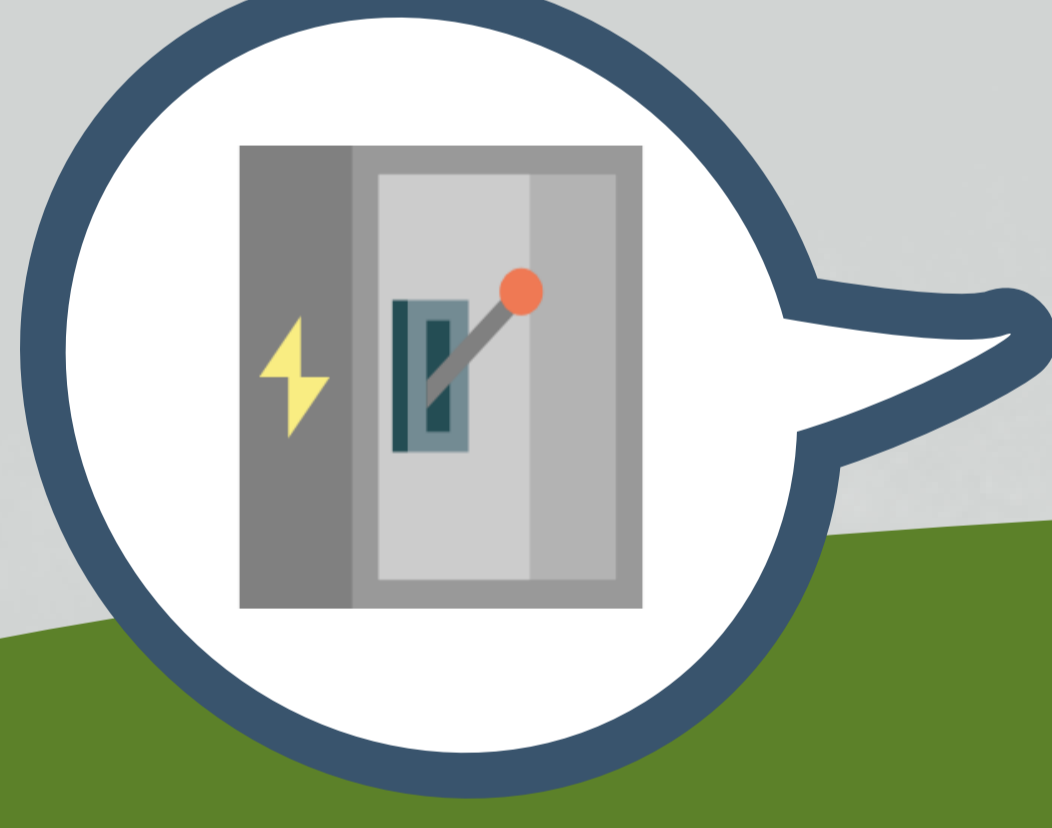
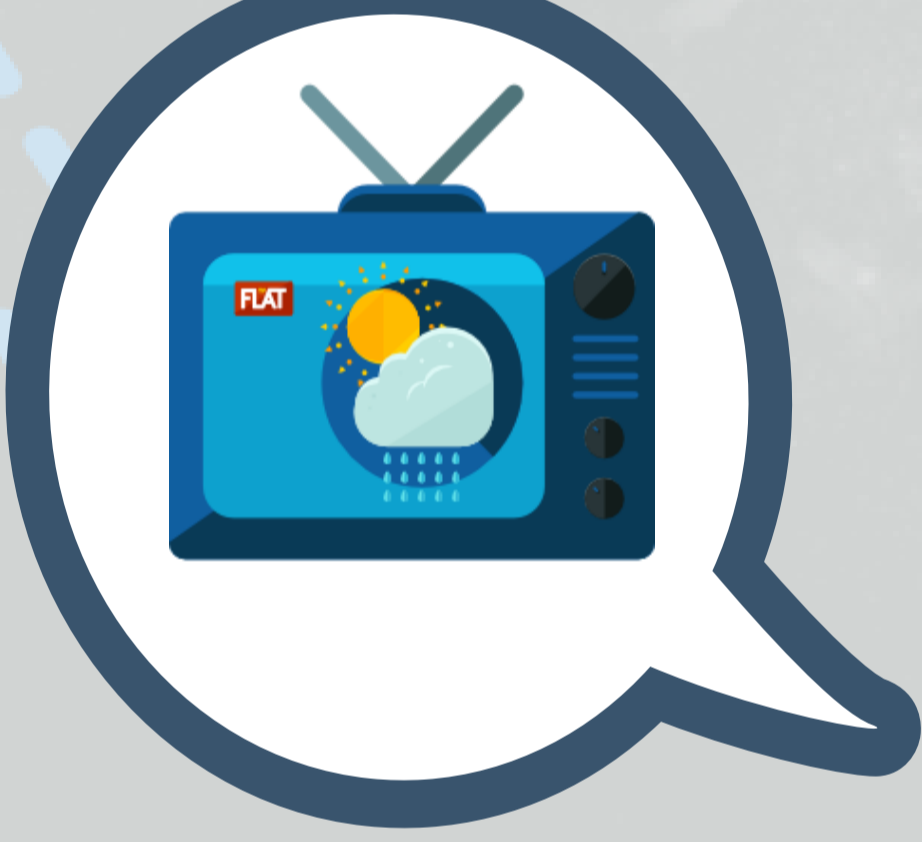
Pre-Hurricane Planning

- Develop a hurricane emergency action and response plans and educate appropriate teams. Give the response team leader authority to initiate implementation of plan.
- Designate a weather watcher who will monitor conditions and advise team leader.
- Identify all critical areas of the facility.
- Have on hand telephone numbers for local and corporate emergency preparedness.
- Arrange backup communications.
- Arrange an off-site emergency communications control center outside windstorm area.
- Determine vital company records.
- Maintain agreements with contractors for supplies and repairs.
- Order emergency supplies.
- Have straps or other means on hand to brace yard storage, signs, etc.
- Inspect and repair roof coverings and flashing in early Spring.
- Provide pre-fitted hurricane shutters or plywood for windows where practical.
- Prepare for windstorm-related flooding with sandbags.
- Identify key equipment and stock what is needed to protect them (tarps, etc.)
- Have plans in place for security after windstorm event.



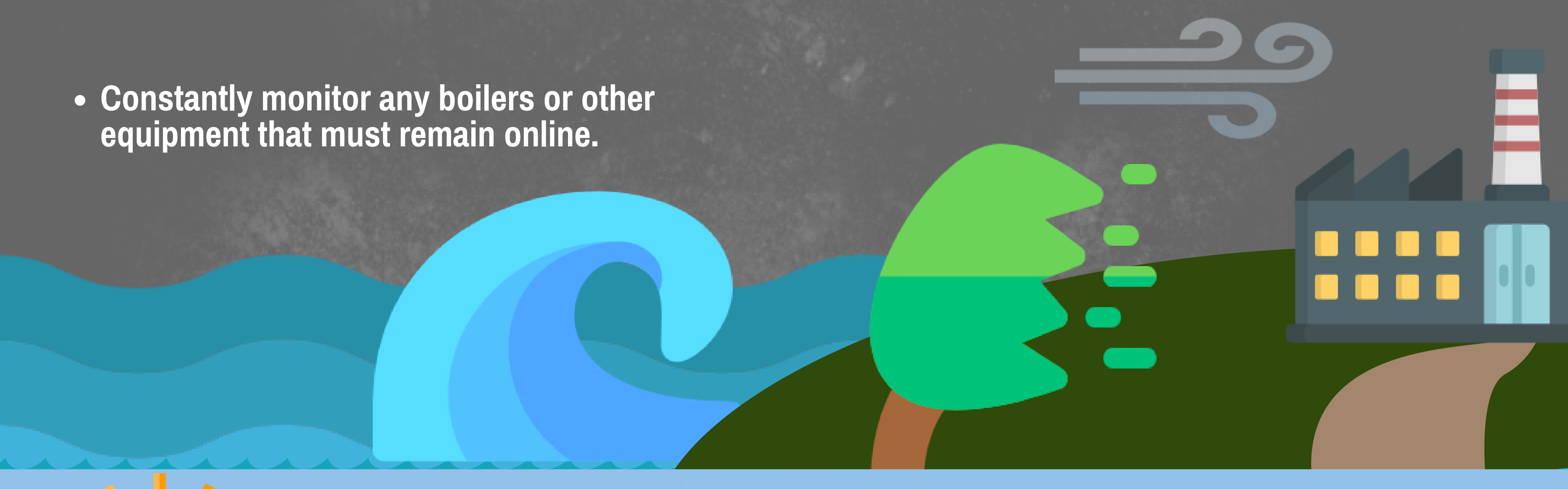
Planning for an Impending Hurricane

- Map the hurricane front and keep up to date of storm's progress.
- Initiate implementation of action plan.
- Shut down operations that depend on outside power sources.
- Inspect and make emergency repairs to drains, gutters, flashing, etc.
- Strap or anchor roof-mounted equipment, exhaust ducts, etc.
- Check/maintain all necessary back up equipment.
- Protect/relocate vital records.
- Install hurricane shutters/plywood.
- Anchor or relocate anything on-site that could blow away or blow into, and damage buildings.
- Inspect all fire protection equipment.
- Have cash on hand for post-storm needs.
- Repair and fill above-ground tanks with water.
- Fill fuel tanks for generators, fire pumps, etc.
- Clean out drains and catch basins.
- Cover computers, machinery and stock tarps where practical.
- Get as many goods off the floor, or ship them out of the facility.
- Isolate, neutralize or remove any chemicals from the site that can react violently with each other.
- Turn off gas to minimize fire loss.
- Protect or shut off other flames.
- Shut down all non-critical and non-essential electrical equipment.



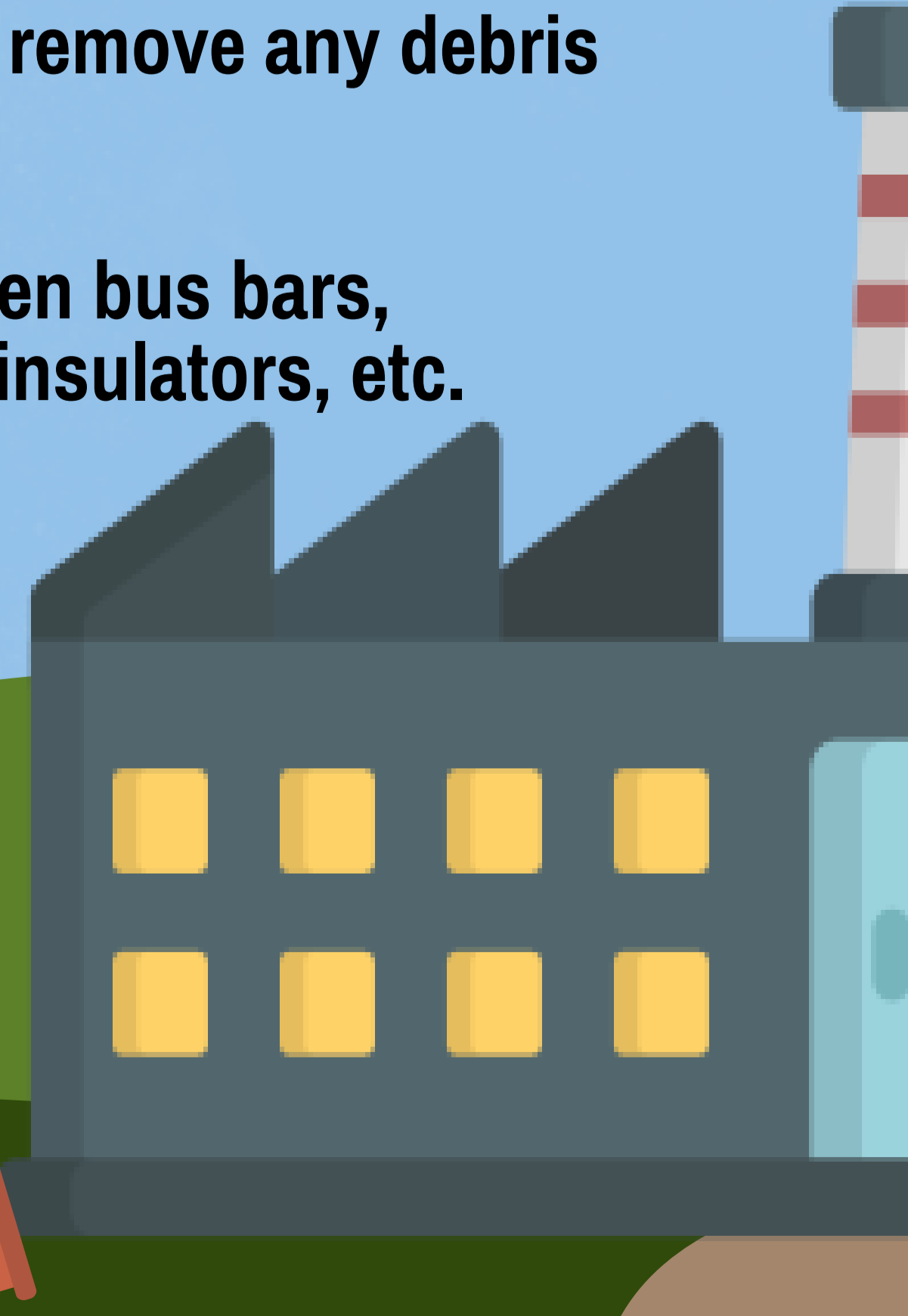
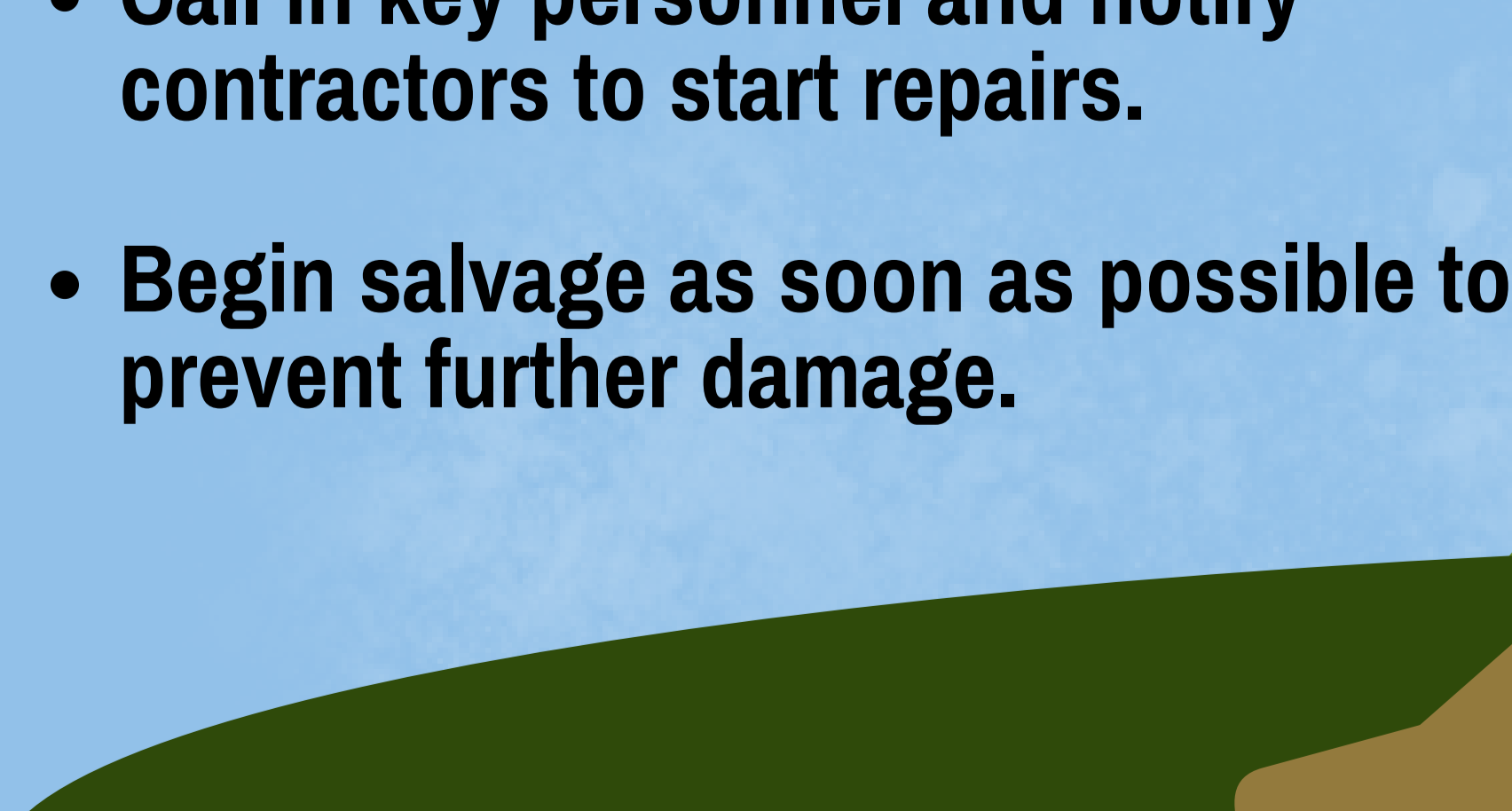
During the Hurricane

- Patrol the property continuously and watch for leaks, pipe breakage, fire damage, etc.
- During power failure, turn off electrical switches to prevent reactivation before necessary checks.
- Constantly monitor any boilers or other equipment that must remain online.



After the Hurricane

- Secure the site.
- Survey the damage.
- Survey for safety hazards such as live wires, leaking gas, leaking flammable liquids, etc.
- Repair damage to the sprinkler system.
- Call in key personnel and notify contractors to start repairs.
- Begin salvage as soon as possible to prevent further damage.
- Cover broken windows and torn roof coverings immediately.
- Clean roof drains and remove any debris from the roof.
- Visually check any open bus bars, conductors, exposed insulators, etc.



Above all, ensuring your and your employees' safety is the first priority. For more information regarding general hurricane preparedness, visit:

NOAA National Hurricane Center

Ready.gov

The Red Cross



Global Risk Consultants