

**GENERAL SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH BRIEFING**  
**FOR DISASTER RESPONSE**

Expedite, but do not sacrifice the safety of the people doing the activities.

The safety requirements are here to help you get the job done without creating more personal hardships.

**ITEMS TO BE AWARE OF:**

- Every Corps employee must wear a hard hat, safety shoes, eye protection, long pants, and shirt with sleeves when performing activities in the field.
- Carry emergency and essential telephone numbers on your person at all times. Some are supervisor/team leaders, field office, safety office/professional and security.
- Make sure you have an adequate supply of, and carry with you, any personal medications you require for at least 30-60 days.
- Drinking of alcohol while working will not be tolerated. If you do, you will be immediately sent back to your home duty station.
- Be very alert of all activities that are occurring where there is a chance of the public, especially children, entering the work area. Public safety is a major responsibility.
- Be extremely aware of wild and domestic animals. Animals may be disoriented, diseased and a threat to your safety.
- The combination of long shifts and seven-day workweeks can cause extreme stress and anxiety. Therefore, pace yourself accordingly to adjust to a different work regime. Take rest breaks during long work hour shifts and get as much sleep as possible during off hours.
- Protect yourself from the natural elements. Ensure that you have appropriate clothing and supplies, i.e. raingear, hard hat, safety boots, sunscreen, insect repellent, bottled water, lip balm, moisture lotion, etc.

**DO NOT DRINK THE LOCAL WATER UNTIL IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION!!!**

- Use caution when turning on electricity where equipment may be damaged or moisture-laden.
- Be aware of buildings that may have structural damage. Do not enter until buildings have been determined to be structurally sound by a professional engineer.
- Drive defensively and take adequate time to become familiar with your vehicles and then appropriately map and locate your destinations. Practice the two-second rule.
- Use the buddy system on and off work hours.
- Maintain your professionalism at all times. Remember that you are representing the Corps of Engineers who was sent to the area to offer assistance in a natural or man-made disaster.
- Never handle hazardous substances or materials without reviewing the material safety data sheet for personal protective equipment and clothing.
- Utilize mechanical lifting devices or use the buddy system when handling heavy objects.
- Do not handle anything that is contaminated. Wear gloves and protective equipment if any part of your body may be in contact with potentially harmful water.
- All accidents must be reported to your supervisor immediately. If the supervisor is not available, report the accident to the safety and health professional on site.