

## **Elevator Procedures During Hurricanes and Storms**

**Elevators should be secured, isolated, and protected before, during, and after a hurricane or tropical storm to prevent damage and ensure passenger safety.**

### **Before the Storm**

- **Inspect critical equipment:** Check sump pumps, float switches, and water alarms in elevator pits to ensure they are operational.
- **Seal openings:** Close all vents, louvers, and openings in the hoistway and machine room to block water entry. Use exterior-rated or severe weather sealants.
- **Protect outdoor elevators:** If elevators have outdoor entrances, remove them from service and place sandbags along the bottom of hoist way doors to prevent flooding.
- **Install Liquid Intrusion Detection (LID):** If available, LID systems can automatically move cars to a safe floor during flooding.
- **Verify structural integrity:** Ensure fire-rated doors and machine room seals are intact and can withstand high winds.

### **During the Storm**

- **Secure elevators:** Move all cars to the top floor (or center of the building for two-story structures) and close doors.
- **Cease operations:** Do not operate elevators during the storm to avoid mechanical damage or trapping passengers.
- **Monitor for power issues:** Storm-related power surges or outages can cause elevators to stop; emergency communication systems may also fail.

### **After the Storm**

- **Assess for damage:** Have a licensed elevator technician inspect for water intrusion, electrical damage, or mechanical issues.
- **Recovery checks:** After power restoration, elevators perform automated safety checks (door functions, floor position, communication) before resuming service.
- **Document and plan:** Update your emergency plan with any changes made during the storm and coordinate with maintenance providers for faster recovery.

**Key safety reminder:** Elevator emergency phones may fail during storms, so never attempt to use them if you are trapped. Evacuate via stairs if necessary.

By following these steps, you can protect elevator equipment, reduce downtime, and ensure safe building operations during and after severe weather