

# DISASTER RESPONSE MEDICAL RECOMMENDATIONS: PRE AND POST-EXPOSURE



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has outlined best practices for pre and post-exposure medical screenings for those deployed to respond to a hurricane disaster site.

## PRE-DISASTER RESPONSE MEDICAL SCREENING

Workers deployed for hurricane disaster work should undergo a pre-deployment medical screening. Pre-deployment screening should include:

- Obtaining contact information and relevant physical and mental health information (e.g., current or pre-existing medical conditions, medications/medical devices, immunizations, pregnancy status) from responders.
- Conducting a medical determination of worker's ability to safely operate in the response environment and conduct anticipated tasks.
- Ensuring required immunizations for hurricane disaster responders, in addition to routine vaccines, including tetanus or booster and hepatitis B, are up to date.

More information from the CDC on pre-deployment screenings can be found [here](#).

## PREGNANT RESPONDER MEDICAL SCREENING

Considering pregnant responders might have special medical considerations and are at higher risk for complications (e.g., heat-related illness, carbon monoxide poisoning, some infectious diseases), they should go through additional pre-disaster screenings:

- Female responders should be asked about pregnancy status prior to deployment.
- If pregnant, responders should be encouraged to discuss the risks to the developing fetus with their healthcare provider.

More information from the CDC:

- [Pregnancy and Your Job – Reproductive Health](#)
- [Disaster Safety for Expecting and New Parents](#)
- [N95 Respirator Use During Pregnancy – Findings from Recent NIOSH Research](#)

## POST-DEPLOYMENT RESPONSE MEDICAL SCREENING

Workers deployed for hurricane disaster work should undergo a post-deployment medical screening following response. Post screening should include:

- Determining if responders have been adversely affected mentally or physically by the work during the response and who needs further surveillance or medical evaluation and treatment.
- Identifying any illnesses, injuries, or symptoms experienced during response work, and seeking appropriate medical attention.

More information from the CDC on post-deployment screenings can be found [here](#).