



# CUSTOMER SERVICE BULLETIN

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## Disaster Preparedness Week

The month of May is generally a busy time for commercial development and home improvements. Along with [Building Safety Month](#), May also recognizes [Business Appreciation Month](#), [National Tourism Week](#), and [Economic Development Week](#). As well as [National Pet Week](#) and National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day; right before Mother's Day!

As the [Department of Development Services](#) focuses on [Building Safety Month's](#) weekly theme of Disaster Preparedness, we want to remind everyone that May is also a peak-time for both good and severe weather - wind-driven rains, floods and tornadoes, which can be produced when a strong hurricane passes the state.

Disaster mitigation through the adoption and enforcement of building codes is one of the best ways for business communities to prepare and protect against future disasters. Buildings and homes that are built in compliance with [building safety codes](#) and the officials who enforce the codes are essential to helping communities minimize the risks of death, injury and property damage in the event of a disaster.

Adopting the latest building codes generate a benefit of

**\$11 for every \$1 invested.**



\*According to a 2019 NIBS study.

### Disaster Preparedness

Studies show good code enforcement decreases loss following disasters by up to 25 percent. [The National Institute of Building Sciences](#) found that adopting the International [Residential](#) and [Building](#) Codes generates a national benefit of \$11 for every \$1 invested.

Natural disasters are increasing in severity and frequency. Thankfully, there are measures that we can all take together – local government, residents, businesses, land and property owners, developers and tenants – to reduce the impact of these hazards.

Advance planning for devastating events like tornadoes, earthquakes, floods and snowstorms helps protect the health and safety of our residents and business community, the local economy and ensures continuity of essential services that supports a faster recovery.

Making sure you are prepared for any natural disaster is important. Below are some of the steps you can take to protect yourself, your loved ones (and pets), your business and home from natural disasters.

## Disaster Preparedness Tips

Here are a few tips to follow when preparing for an emergency:

1. **Determine your risk** - Assess all possible natural disasters, hazards and emergencies by visiting FEMA [here](#).
2. **Make a plan** - Determine what is needed to prepare and recover from natural disasters, by visiting [PWCgov.org](#), and [ReadyNOVA.org](#), or [Ready.gov](#), and other reliable sources. And don't forget [the animals in your care!](#)
3. **Make a supply kit** - Create a [disaster supply kit](#) that will allow you to stay in place or for use after evacuating from an [unsafe structure](#) to a safe location.
4. **Practice** - Review your plan regularly, refresh supplies and identify at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood to a designated meeting place for your employees and family.
5. **Take Shelter** - Taking [shelter](#) is critical in times of disaster.
6. **Stay informed** - Sign up for [PWC alerts](#), stay tuned to local radio, TV and NOAA Weather Radio. For official updates and critical lifesaving weather information, visit [here](#).

**#BuildingSafety365 #PrinceWilliamStrong #WereInThisTogether**

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