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# **HURRICANE CHECKLIST FOR ELEVATORS**

## PRIOR TO HURRICANE SEASON (April and May):

- Check the operation of all vents and openings in the machine room and hoist way walls to insure proper operation and prevent water leaking.
- Check all sump pumps, float switches and alarms to insure proper operation.

### PREPARING FOR HURRICANE (Hurricane Warning):

- Check all sump pumps, floats switches and alarm in the elevator pit.
- Close up all vents and openings in top of hoist way and machine room to prevent water from intruding.
- Elevators that open to the atmosphere should have sandbags placed all along bottom of hoist way doors.

#### **DURING HURRICANE:**

Run elevator to center of hoist way and pull the main breaker in machine room (Not the main breaker located elsewhere)

Disconnecting the power serves three purposes:

1. It prevents an unauthorized person from otherwise taking the elevator away from your intended parking area.

- 2. It prevents severe damage to equipment caused by short circuits from wet circuitry. Usually once the equipment is dried out it can be quickly cleared and re-started by a competent mechanic; with little or no damage.
- 3. The equipment will be saved from damage caused by voltage surges, spikes and dips resulting from lightning strikes and power line shorts due to wind.

Park elevators with doors closed. Although this is fairly self-explanatory, there are several reasons:

- If windows break on the floor the elevator is parked, you will prevent debris from entering the hoist way.
- On hydraulic elevators, it is normal to have some oil leaking around the jack packing. An elevator that sits for 24 or more hours may settle as much as couple of inches, or more. An open door would only invite problems as you as you can imagine.
- We do not want anyone to get inside and close the doors manually and perhaps become inadvertently trapped.

Do not run the elevator during the hurricane.

#### AFTER HURRICANE:

Usage of equipment and availability of equipment for the disabled.

Obviously we need to take into account the availability of equipment for the movement of the disabled after it has been shut down. If necessary, advance plans should be implemented to move the disabled to an appropriate designated shelter. The equipment should not be used by <u>anyone during</u> a hurricane for their personal safety. The ADA requires reasonable accommodation for the disabled, which does not mean endangering them, or allowing them or anyone else to place themselves in great peril. See the case stories in C.3. And D.2. above.