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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **SC OSHA Providing Free Safety Supplies as State Recovers**

SC OSHA is providing safety supplies, free of charge, to emergency workers, employers, employees and the public to help them be safer as they recover from the impact of recent flooding in South Carolina.

“SC OSHA is in intervention mode right now for those affected by the floods and those who are helping South Carolinians clean up and rebuild,” SC OSHA Administrator Dottie Ison said. “We want to offer our expertise and assistance to everyone during this time.”

SC OSHA employees are traveling around different areas of the state observing cleanup efforts. As they see potentially dangerous situations or people working without necessary safety supplies, they are stopping to educate the individuals and give them the safety supplies.

Anyone in need of safety supplies can call the SC OSHA office at (803) 896-7665. The available supplies include: hearing protection, safety glasses, gloves, dust masks, reflective vests and Tyvek coveralls.

A range of safety and health hazards exist following storms. The hazards can be minimized with knowledge, safe work practices and personal protective equipment.

Cleanup work can involve many hazards related to: debris cleanup; tree trimming; structural, roadway and bridge repair; hazardous waste operations; and emergency response activities.

SC OSHA offers the following tips for those involved in recovery:

- Evaluate the work area for hazards.
- Employ engineering or work practice controls to mitigate hazards.
- Use personal protective equipment.
- Assume all power lines are live.
- Use portable generators, saws, ladders, vehicles and other equipment properly.
- Heed safety precautions for traffic work zones

If you have questions about SC OSHA standards, call (803) 896-7661.