



October 9, 2024

To: SCAA Members

Re: Hurricane Milton Preparation

Many of our member companies are busy working their respective Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) or other internal mechanisms they have to plan and prepare for the impending landfall and impacts of Hurricane Milton.

What's sometimes lost on people outside our industry is that a lot of the preparedness work for an event like a major hurricane involves looking inward towards their own operations and resources. The number one priority of our member companies is always with their own employees and family's safety. Assuring and aiding in their well-being and needs is step one, along with protecting company infrastructure from potential damage. It might be securing facilities, vessels, vehicles or other equipment, and often involves navigating around evacuation mandates and considerations. In some cases, it might involve special precautions protecting or safe-guarding waste treatment, tank and storage facilities from wind or flood conditions that would have the potential to cause an unexpected release. It is impossible to respond to customer needs if those assets are either destroyed or damaged.

At the same time, our member companies are working directly with their customers to prepare, protect and plan for response activities during the lead-up to the storm. This may involve anything from pre-staging of equipment or resources to assistance in helping secure facilities and other infrastructure. Assuring your customers that you will be there to assist, as soon as conditions safely allow; is fundamental to what SCAA member companies do day in and day out.

Over the years, our SCAA members have consistently demonstrated a willingness and ability to work together during times of crisis, both for their own benefit as well the greater good of our industry and the market we serve. Many of our member companies are still in the early stages of assisting in the massive clean-up efforts left by Hurricane Helene's destruction, and are now going to be further challenged by Milton's impact. Historical events like we are now facing, as unfortunate and tragic as they may be, have a unique opportunity to become a galvanizing bond across our response community. It's a time to look towards the bigger picture, focus on what's most important, and offer mutual aid where needed.

We know many of you already have existing relationships that you have nurtured with other SCAA members, and encourage all to take benefit of these as needed. We would also strongly encourage you to look towards our membership for new relationships, services or capabilities that our member companies can potentially offer to one another in support of your individual efforts and needs.

We stand ready to assist member companies where needed. In the past, we have arranged for periodic “virtual-briefings” that simply created a forum for interested parties from member companies to talk amongst themselves about their current situation or needs. As a reminder, these discussions *would not include any specific pricing or contractual terms* – but simply offered to make a potential connection which could then be taken off-line by the respective parties.

If there are specific needs or ideas that you feel SCAA could do to help in the overall response, please contact me at bhouse@scaa-spill.org directly.

Thanks for your dedication, and please keep safe out there.