

After the Storm

Labor standards during climate emergencies

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Organizing Network

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Methodology

- Houston following Hurricane Harvey
 - 361 surveys at 20 informal hiring sites
 - 4 weeks after hurricane made landfall
 - English and Spanish
 - 92% response rate
- New Orleans following Hurricane Ida
 - 171 surveys at 7 informal hiring sites
 - 8 weeks after hurricane made landfall
 - English and Spanish

Worker profile

Immigrant workforce

- Overwhelmingly from Mexico and Central America
- ~ 80% undocumented immigrants
- Mobile work crews

Top occupations

- Roofing
- Demolition
- Remodeling
- Cleanup

Health and Safety

PPE NOLA

- Hardhat: 40%
- N95: 38%
- Protective eyewear: 49%
- Employer provided: <20%

PPE Houston

- Hardhat: 36%
- N95: 39%
- Protective eyewear: 40%

Health and Safety

Ailments

NOLA

- Eye problems: 31%
- Recurring headaches: 28%
- Skin rashes: 22%
- Difficulty breathing: 12%

Ailments

Houston

- Eye problems: 40%
- Recurring headaches: 35%
- Skin rashes: 28%
- Difficulty breathing: 27%

Injuries

Cuts and puncture wounds

Serious falls

Ergonomic injuries

Fractures

Reporting

Worker education

- Need for targeted outreach
- Spanish-language investigators
- Training and distribution of PPE

Retaliation

- Stronger anti-retaliation measures