Hurricane Safety – Clean Up Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Electrical Hazards:** Downed power lines and waterlogged electrical systems pose risks of electrocution during cleanup efforts.
2. **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:** Improper use of gasoline-powered generators in enclosed spaces can lead to dangerous carbon monoxide buildup.
3. **Structural Instability:** Damaged buildings and debris can collapse unexpectedly, causing injuries.
4. **Exposure to Hazardous Materials:** Floodwaters may contain sewage, chemicals, and other contaminants, leading to health issues upon contact.
5. **Injury from Debris:** Sharp or heavy debris can cause cuts, puncture wounds, or crush injuries during removal.
6. **Heat-Related Illnesses:** Physical exertion in hot and humid conditions can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

STATS

- Following hurricanes, there is an increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning due to the use of portable generators. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported multiple fatalities from carbon monoxide poisoning after Hurricane Irma in 2017.
- The City of Tampa completed its storm debris removal operations ahead of schedule, clearing over 1.3 million cubic yards of debris. This effort involved approximately 300 contracted haulers and required more than 118,000 hours of work.
- Over 1,400 FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance team members were deployed to help survivors apply for assistance and connect them with additional resources.

- In North Carolina, 21 Disaster Recovery Centers were opened to assist survivors, while in South Carolina, there were nine such centers.
- Following Hurricane Fiona in 2022, residents of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia reported high levels of concern about the risk of natural disasters or weather-related emergencies, with 44% and 32% respectively expressing significant concern.