



Risk Control

Prepare for the Fall Season Now!

You may have already heard the predictions for a strong El Niño autumn and winter. While there are no absolutes in weather, typically this can mean an above average level of precipitation in the West and Central part of Canada. By taking these three steps, you can better prepare for the upcoming months.

1. Conduct Safe Roof Inspections

Never place yourself or others at risk to access a roof. For roofs that are difficult to access, work with a qualified personnel to check the following:

Is the roof surface in good condition?

Common examples of surface problems include dry, cracked or missing roofing material, cracked or loose roof seams, blisters or low spots. Have these repaired to reduce the chance of interior water damage. If repair works have recently been conducted on a roof, check no residual materials or forgotten tools have been left on site to eliminate the risk of potential damage.

Are roof drains, gutters and downspouts in good condition?

Common examples of visible drain problems include plugged roof strainers, obstructions that block the flow of water to drains and debris in gutters. Make sure the roof surface is clear of any debris.

It can, and will, float towards the drain in a storm. Other problems that may not be easily visible (and should be investigated) include clogged drain pipes or downspouts. Failure to provide roof drainage can increase the chance of water damage to the building, or under extreme cases, lead to a roof collapse.

2. Prepare for Heavy Winds

With storms, heavier winds are possible. To limit potential damage, follow these steps:

- Secure roof mounted equipment.
- Secure yard equipment or any yard storage. Consider moving them inside in advance of any storms.
- Heavy winds can move these items.

3. Review These Important Areas

Be sure to take these additional actions to protect your property:

- See if drains in low spots are operational and clear from obstructions. This should include loading dock areas that often have blocked drains.
- Check to make sure sump pumps are operational and drains are clear from obstructions. Look for materials susceptible to water damage that have been moved into below grade areas.
- Consider using pallets or skids to elevate stock that could be damaged by rising waters. Raising materials even a few inches above the floor can protect product from minor flooding.
- Update your business continuity plan. If your building is not accessible, can you still conduct business?

To learn more about how CNA's Risk Control services can help you manage your risks and increase efficiencies, please contact your local CNA Risk Control, or visit cnacanada.ca.

