



# Storm-ready utility fleet inspection checklist

Complete this fleet inspection checklist before the first call goes out.



## 1. Validate asset readiness

- ☐ Confirm location and availability of all powered equipment, including generators, light towers, compressors and traffic control devices.
- ☐ Flag any vehicle with open maintenance items before it's assigned to a storm crew.
- ☐ Confirm fuel levels and staging locations for generators, bucket trucks and light towers before surge begins.
- ☐ Account for non-powered assets that get redeployed or go missing during surge without being logged.
- ☐ Verify utilization data so dispatchers know which assets have margin and which are already at capacity.
- ☐ Verify charge status and confirm route viability for any electric vehicles before assigning them to storm response.



## 2. Assess high-risk drivers before surge

- ☐ Review **driver risk scores** for all permanent crew before surge staffing begins to find those who need coaching before the response starts.
- ☐ For mutual-aid drivers, confirm safety records and licensing are on file before dispatch. Don't rely on verbal confirmation.
- ☐ Link trip data to individual mutual-aid drivers, not just the vehicle. Use in-cab driver identification so each trip is tied to a person, not an asset.
- ☐ Run a pre-storm coaching session for any driver flagged for fatigue patterns or distraction events.



## 3. Implement lone worker protections

- ☐ Establish a check-in schedule for any technician assigned to a remote or off-grid site before the storm event starts.
- ☐ For workers beyond cellular range, deploy a contact solution that doesn't rely on stable cellular coverage.
- ☐ Review OSHA lone worker compliance requirements for your jurisdiction before storm season. Penalties for failure to maintain contact can reach \$165,514.
- ☐ Test crews and dispatch on escalation protocols to help ensure everyone gets home safe.



#### 4. Deploy live visibility

- ☐ Confirm all fleet vehicles and equipment are live and trackable before the storm event begins.
- ☐ Monitor driving behavior during the surge when unfamiliar roads and weather compound collision risk.
- ☐ Assign a dispatcher dedicated to monitoring asset and crew locations throughout the active storm response.
- ☐ Establish a handoff protocol for dispatcher shift changes during multi-day storm events.
- ☐ Log all incidents during the storm event in real time — post-storm reconstruction from memory is incomplete.



#### 5. Plan the post-storm review

- ☐ Preserve dash cam footage and incident logs from the active response period for insurance claim documentation.
- ☐ Pull driver exception reports within 48 hours of the storm to identify coaching needs before crews disperse.
- ☐ Inspect all equipment returned from the field before reassigning. Storm conditions accelerate wear that doesn't show up in normal cycles.
- ☐ If a state of emergency is declared, export asset and trip records from your fleet management system immediately to support FEMA reimbursement claims.



**Keeping essential services running takes more preparation than most people see. Discover how Geotab helps utility fleet managers keep crews safe, track every asset and stay in control from the first dispatch to the final report.**

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