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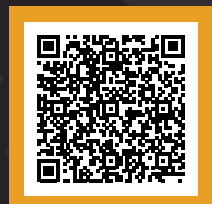
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Expanded Offerings Aid in Gulf Cleanup

Delivering a range of offerings, Republic Services made every effort to get Floridians back up and running after Hurricane Ian.

By Giles Lambertson

ON THE COVER

Teaming up to tackle disaster recovery is just part of the business for Republic Services. An acquisition of US Ecology added diversity to their already substantial resource of cleanup services for customers and communities. (Photography by Republic Services)



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Tim Dobbins
EDITOR

Pat on the Back

Giving yourself some credit is good advertising for your business, and does a lot for the entire recovery industry

At 16 years old, I became the youngest person at the time to join the Sugar Camp Volunteer Fire Department, a humble organization in northern Wisconsin.

During my years in the small-town department, the majority of calls had nothing to do with fire. We were often first on scene when storms or heavy snow and ice knocked down trees on power lines and roadways. In those circumstances, it was our job to secure a safe area, direct traffic and wait until responders with the proper training and equipment arrived.

It's been a number of years since my fire department days, but I can still remember holding a stop sign on the side of a rural highway around 1 a.m. so a bucket truck and crew had secure access to a fallen tree that took down some power lines during a high-wind thunderstorm. When my task was complete, I went home to a house without power and slept for a few hours before waking up to restored electricity. On my commute to school later that morning, I saw that same crew working at a different location, though many hours later.

RECOGNITION

It wasn't uncommon for the fire department to receive handwritten thank-you cards from appreciative community members following calls. I enjoyed reading them at the time, but then didn't give them much more thought. Now, I wonder how many thank you cards the crew in that bucket truck were given.

I scour the internet daily in search of stories featuring companies and the services they provide post-storm with little to show for it. There is a general lack of media attention about contractors and businesses that work to keep communities up and running following disasters.

Though it's only been a short time since *DCR* became more than an idea, I've spent months lining up

stories by connecting with as many contractors, product manufacturers and industry professionals as possible. It's apparent from those I've talked with that recognition is not expected and the reason why you do what you do, but that doesn't mean it isn't deserved or helpful.

GOOD FOR ALL

Give yourself some credit and use press releases, social media platforms and any means of media you can to advertise the crucial service you provide. Bringing attention to and educating the general public about the diverse world that is disaster cleanup and recovery is beneficial to your business and the industry as a whole.

Handwritten thank-you cards may be a thing of the past, but shoutouts and sharing posts on social media are common practice and provide a thank-you message that can reach thousands. You can also give yourself or a company you know some acknowledgement through us — reach out and let *DCR* share the story. You do incredible work and we want to highlight it.

To the contractors restoring power and travel in small-town Wisconsin, to those navigating the mountains out west during the wildfire season and tackling the layers of debris following floods and hurricanes, and to everyone in between, thank you! **D**



CONTACT US:

DCR Contractor strives to serve those on the front lines of disaster cleanup and recovery with interesting and helpful stories. We welcome your comments, questions and column suggestions and promise a prompt reply to all reader contacts. Call 800-257-7222 or email *DCR* editor Tim Dobbins at editor@dcrcontractor.com.

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» SCAN ME



NET SURFING

Sharing The Best Disaster Related Content

We're always on the lookout for relevant and interesting disaster recovery content. In our e-newsletters, we regularly share and highlight news stories and social media posts that we are reading and watching, like this article that details how a recovery crew helped solve a decades-old mystery.

W *When employees become complacent, they may not realize the real dangers of the work they're performing or they might not notice a change in the environment that could be disastrous to them."*

– Simple Steps for Safe Excavation
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FIRE AND WATER How Wildfires Affect Water

The unpredictable nature of wildfires complicates water management for utilities and water professionals. In this article, the Texas Water Resources Institute talks how increased drought and wildfire occurrences impact water quality, water quantity and water infrastructure.

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POWER TRENDS A Look at the Future of Fuel

In the mission to reduce carbon emissions, the equipment industry is seeing an influx of alternative and improved power solutions. This article highlights some of the advancements that are becoming more common.

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Expanded Offerings Aid in Gulf Cleanup

Delivering a range of offerings, Republic Services made every effort to get Floridians back up and running after Hurricane Ian

By Giles Lambertson | Photos provided by Republic Services



■ The Sanibel Island causeway newly repaired after suffering enough damage during the storms to warrant the use of marine vessels to get equipment to the island.

When the eye of Hurricane Ian passed Florida’s Gulf Coast, in September 2022, Republic Services didn’t blink. Within four hours, its assembled personnel assessed damage, prioritized missions and began to strategically deploy the company’s rubber-tired and marine fleet of equipment.

Robert Breed, Republic Services general manager of emergency response programs and special operations and 25-year company veteran, has helped steer the company through the aftermath of numerous hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Traditionally, Republic Services’ post-storm services have been collection and disposal of general waste left behind by a storm. But with Hurricane Ian, things were different. For the first time, Republic Services was able to offer a larger array of services to customers. A few months before, the company had acquired US Ecology, a provider of environmental, emergency and disaster response services.

“Acquiring US Ecology gave us a broader approach to chemical and environmental impacts of a storm, going beyond the classic municipal waste cleanup,” says Breed. “This time, we really were responding in a different capacity.”

GETTING SET

Emergency response companies don’t just show up after a disaster. When Hurricane Ian began to form, Republic Services and its customers in the path of the emerging



storm already were on the phone. Roughly two weeks before landfall, the conversations were along the lines of, “What will you need from us when the storm hits?”

“We work proactively with customers, learn of their expected needs and plan how to respond,” says Breed. “At the top level, we begin assigning leadership responsibilities and identifying sites to pre-stage our equipment.” For Hurricane Ian, Republic Services deployed equipment to Florida from 11 states.

The company actually evaluates an entire community’s needs, not just focusing on contracted customers. Since hurricane rains fall on customer and noncustomer properties alike, they try to anticipate appeals for help from municipal or commercial executives who are not yet customers.

In the hours after a storm hits, Republic Services managers interact with other response outfits on site to form an incident command to coordinate simultaneous assistance for numerous customers. “The command center helps prioritize where assets should go, what regions are safe to repopulate, and so on,” says Breed.

Among the equipment marshaled along the Gulf Coast following Ian, were 130-barrel vacuum trucks and trailers, trash collection trucks, portable storage tanks, command trailers, specialized firefighting equipment,

small trailers and boats. The company’s comprehensive boat fleet ranges from small flat-bottomed jon boats to 150-foot ocean-going vessels. “We have more than 300 marine vessels and most are custom built.”

TASKS ON SITE

It turned out that a third of Republic Services’ tasks along the coast were offshore. “There was a lot of need for our shoreline operations equipment and services. Several commercial fleet craft had sunk and quite a bit of diesel fuel containment was needed,” Breed says.

Because the storm collapsed the causeway leading to Sanibel Island, reaching island customers became a problem. To ferry the company’s one-ton, four-wheel-drive trucks to Sanibel, the company called on marine equipment normally utilized in offshore oilfield emergency responses. “There were some unique equipment needs after Ian,” Breed says. “In this case, we worked hard to load our trucks on barges and land them on the beach of Sanibel Island.”

So, boats proved to be the biggest equipment asset, he says, with small trucks and trailers being the second most valuable. The company’s clients include national pharmacies and other retailers and, Breed says, “the smaller pieces of equipment helped us get to

One of Republic Services’ Peterbilt trucks and driver leaving the shop and ready for service.

“ACQUIRING US ECOLOGY GAVE US A BROADER APPROACH TO CHEMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF A STORM, GOING BEYOND THE CLASSIC MUNICIPAL WASTE CLEANUP. THIS TIME, WE REALLY WERE RESPONDING IN A DIFFERENT CAPACITY.”

– ROBERT BREED





Marine vessels took a huge hit during Hurricane Ian as seen from this Fort Meyers marina.

“OUR TEAM HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS AFTER HURRICANE IAN TO SUMMARIZE OUR SUCCESS AND IDENTIFY NEW WAYS TO DELIVER SOLUTIONS FOR CUSTOMERS FACING HURRICANES IN THE FUTURE.”

— ROBERT BREED



a lot of smaller retail locations that had been impacted.”

He says handling hazardous material was a very small part of the work because no major oil refinery or chemical production facilities are located in the area. But retail outlets were missing roofs, post offices contained soggy mail and store product displays were underwater.

“One of the places we worked in was pharmacies. When a pharmacy is flooded six or eight feet deep, the store’s food, candy, medicine and other shelved products must be thrown away and over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be properly and safely disposed of.”

END GOALS

Breed summarizes the company’s hurricane recovery work this way: “The top task always is to support a return to normalcy for a community.” That support sometimes continues for two or three years.

The company has more than 70 whol-

ly owned emergency response locations across the country and hundreds more through a pre-vetted independent contractor network. Company-wide, 40,000 people work for Republic Services, about 2,000 of them with emergency response credentials. At the height of the Ian response, some 200 company employees labored along the Gulf Coast, along with independent contractors.

A constant priority is keeping employees safe when they work from dawn to dusk in extreme conditions. Breed calls the company’s safety program “very robust.” The always-looming danger is complacency. As team members begin to acclimate themselves to nails protruding from dismantled structures, downed power lines and buildings weakened by flooding, the risk increases.

“Every daily and shift-change briefing covers all the associated risks out there. With every assignment, a task and site-specific program is developed and signed off on by employees,” says the general manager. “The point is, this is not just work as usual.”

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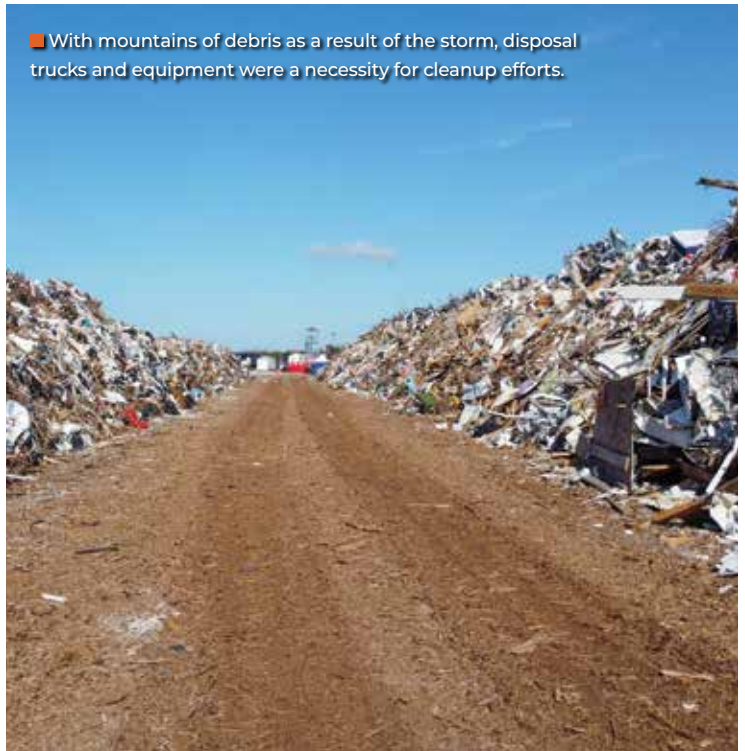
When the recovery mission is complete, a critical incident debriefing is undertaken by company executives. "Our team had extensive discussions after Hurricane Ian," says Breed, "to summarize our success and identify new ways to deliver solutions for customers facing hurricanes in the future."

Natural disasters have devastating effects on communities and the arrival of environmental cleanup companies can add to the disruption. Republic Services is mindful of its impact on routine and tries to mitigate any ensuing problems.

"We always take a community-first approach, ensuring that we are responsible neighbors and dependable partners," Breed says. "Our equipment is deployed quickly and safely."

Ocean-spawned storms are just one cleanup scenario for Republic Services. The company also routinely cleans chemical and oil refinery spills and large wildfires. "Our diversity is a benefit to our customers and our communities." **D**

■ With mountains of debris as a result of the storm, disposal trucks and equipment were a necessity for cleanup efforts.





By Joan Koehne

Protect Against Internal Threats

A bad hire's misconduct can be the most dangerous thing your company faces

"I REALLY HAVE GOTTEN MORE INVOLVED IN OVERSIGHT. A LOT OF BUSINESS OWNERS DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. SINCE WE'VE BEEN DOING THAT, WE'RE ABLE TO FIND PROBLEMS RIGHT AWAY AND FIX THEM."

— SUSAN FREW

A knock on the door one Saturday morning in 2019 changed Susan and William Frew's world.

A letter carrier delivered an official notice from the Internal Revenue Service, stating that the Frews' plumbing business, Sunshine Home Services, owed \$486,000 in back taxes, penalties and interest. Additionally, Susan, president of the company, was penalized \$209,000 for signing inaccurate tax forms. But the bad news didn't end there. Sunshine Home Services also owed vendors \$175,000.

Suddenly, the Denver-area company was \$1 million in debt, and the Frews were on the verge of losing everything they had built since opening in 2008.

INTERNAL THREAT

Business owners are frequently told to be wary of external threats like cyberattacks, vandalism and theft. However, internal threats and criminal activity are just as real. Employee theft can devastate a business financially, not to mention the emotional toll it takes on everyone involved. A bad hire's misconduct or criminal acts can compromise the foundation of an organization.

The Frews abruptly learned the consequences of putting too much trust in their office manager. Looking back, Susan says she can see where mistakes were made. Serving also as an author and business consultant, she traveled a lot and left the day-to-day business operations in the hands of the office manager. Susan trusted the manager, and they were good friends. As an incentive, Susan offered the manager a monetary bo-

nus if the company stayed within its budget.

"All of a sudden, she was on budget all of the time," Susan says.

Unfortunately, Susan failed to see this as a red flag. The office manager made only partial payments to vendors and the IRS, so the company quickly started accumulating debt. The office manager also used company credit to buy gas for her family's vehicles and purchase tools and tires from company vendors for her family. Everything came to light when the employee W-2 forms didn't match Sunshine's quarterly tax payments. Even before this occurred, Susan says she and the office manager had a falling out, and the manager was fired. Still, the damage had been done. The employee was charged with six felonies and is now paying \$100 restitution monthly.

LESSONS LEARNED

As business owners, the Frews learned some important lessons from this experience. Today, Sunshine Home Services is much more careful when hiring employees. In addition to the standard criminal background check the company uses, Sunshine also runs a civil background check. The civil background check uncovers information about an applicant's financial penalties like bankruptcies, liens and garnishes. Sunshine Home Services also checks references, even in today's tight labor market when it's tempting to skip this extra step.

Additionally, Susan set up alerts on her corporate credit card, so she's notified every time the credit card is used. She also has the only key to the company's mailbox.

“You have to get your own mail,” she says. “If I got my own mail, I would’ve caught this a lot sooner.”

Now, Susan looks at every single invoice and makes it a daily habit to reconcile the business accounts between the bank and Sunshine’s software.

“I really have gotten more involved in oversight,” she says. “A lot of business owners don’t want to do that, but it’s absolutely essential. Since we’ve been doing that, we’re able to find problems right away and fix them.”

Sunshine also hired an outside accountant to review the company’s books on a regular basis. Susan recommends finding a bookkeeper who is highly referred. She also recommends verifying financial statements with a third party.

“You and your bookkeeper shouldn’t be the only ones looking at the books,” she says.

Susan also encourages business owners to learn to read and understand business finances.

“Because this spooked me so bad, I have been doing an accounting course to get an accounting certificate,” she says.

SETTING UP PROTECTIONS

Susan realizes now that she stepped away from the business too soon, when it wasn’t ready to operate without her. Plus, Sunshine didn’t have the proper safeguards in place to prevent this type of employee misconduct.

Realistically, employees require a certain level of authority and trust to run operations, but employers also need to implement checks and balances. Certainly, employees can run a business, but they also can ruin a business. When business owners assume that every position has the capability of ruining their business, they realize the importance of internal protocols and controls.

To make it clear that employee theft won’t be tolerated, employers can work with their attorneys to develop an anti-theft policy for the employee handbook. The policy should include examples of prohibited behaviors and the consequences of violating the policies. Consequences may include immediate termination, police involvement, legal action and financial arrangements for restitution.

Employers may also want to install video surveillance to discourage and uncover attempts of employee theft, especially of cash, supplies and equipment.

The theft of personal and corporate data is another internal threat to companies. Several different types of data can be vulnerable, including customer lists, product research, business plans and proprietary recipes or formulas. Many businesses protect their trade secrets by having employees and business associates sign nondisclosure agreements. An NDA prohibits individuals from sharing trade secrets, processes and other proprietary information with a third party. Companies should clearly mark propri-

etary information as confidential, identify it with a watermark and have processes in place for handling and safeguarding. Sensitive data warrants the extra effort required to prevent unauthorized use and ensure the data is eligible for legal protection.

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Employee theft comes in a variety of forms. Too often, small businesses are caught off guard by internal threats and crimes by employees.

“I know that I’m not alone. I’m not the only business owner who’s gone through something like this,” Susan says.

Her advice to business owners in similar situations is to take it one day at a time.

“Come up with a plan and stick with it,” she says.

Sunshine made small payments to its vendors each Friday — days Susan ironically referred to as “Fun Friday.” By the end of 2022, Sunshine had repaid \$750,000 of its \$1 million debt. The recovery has taken time and effort, but Sunshine Home Services is getting back on course.

“There were a couple of years that the business was just an anchor tied around my neck, and now I’m enjoying it again,” Susan says. “I feel like a new entrepreneur again.” ▣



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By Joan Koehne

Saved by the Bell

Tracy Massey and his crew owe a lot to the V-Watch, but only because they were wearing it

“ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY WENT OFF. EVERYBODY’S. THEY WERE ONLY ON FOR TWO SECONDS, AND THEN THEY QUIT. WE DIDN’T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. IT WAS UNNERVING.”

– TRACY MASSEY



It may have happened five years ago, but Tracy Massey and his crew remember the incident like it was yesterday.

Massey is the senior foreman at Marshall-Dekalb Electric Cooperative in Boaz, Alabama. He has worked at the cooperative for 28 years, and one specific day on the job is forever etched in his memory.

On Oct. 28, 2018, Massey and his eight-member crew of apprentices, linemen and an equipment operator were working in Wewahitchka, Florida. They were restoring power and restringing downed wires after Hurricane Michael, assisting Gulf Coast Cooperative. On that fall afternoon at 1:34 p.m., work on the power lines quickly switched from routine to frightening.

“The line had been dead the whole time, then all of a sudden, we started getting warnings on the voltage detector,” Massey says. The alerts from their V-Watches stunned them.

“All of a sudden, they went off,” says Massey. “Everybody’s. All nine went off. They were only on for two seconds, and then they quit. We didn’t know what happened. It was unnerving.”

The V-Watch by Greenlee is a personal voltage detector that storm restoration workers and first responders wear outside their clothing. When the V-Watch detects an electrical hazard, an alarm sounds and lights blink. The battery-operated, lightweight and water-resistant voltage detector has an initial warning distance of about 7

feet from a 4 kV AC conductor.

It wasn’t the first time the V-Watch alerted the crew to high voltage on this particular storm restoration trip; it happened two other times. But it was the first time the alarm caught them off guard, in the middle of their hurricane recovery work, and not at the start of the job.

TRACKING DOWN DANGER

After making sure the crew was safe, Massey set off to find out what had put them in danger, revisiting three houses and a well pump that were connected to the electrical lines. He had stopped at all three before the crew started their restoration work.

The hurricane destroyed one house, and the electricity was disconnected. At another house, the family was at home and a generator was running. Massey opened up the dropout on their transformer to keep it from back feeding through the line.

At the second house, the windows and doors were boarded up. When initially visiting the house, no one was home and no vehicles were in sight. Massey didn’t open up the dropout because he didn’t think the home was occupied. He couldn’t imagine that anybody was living there.

“That’s one of the reasons we weren’t worried about that house. It was boarded up, and it had been 20 days since the power went out,” he says.

When Massey checked the generator at the boarded-up house after the V-Watch

alert, he immediately saw the problem. The generator had no interlock kit to prevent the main breaker from being energized once the generator was switched on. The residents at the home made a grave mistake when they came home that afternoon and plugged in the generator. They must have seen the electrical crews working on the power lines when they drove past to get to their house but evidently didn't realize the danger they put the workers in.

Understandably upset, Massey quickly turned the generator off.

"I had to turn it off, and when I did, I jerked the wires out of the breaker box and threw them out in the yard," he says. He told the family not to hook the generator back up and left to finish the restoration work.

REAL-LIFE REMINDERS

Massey says it's important to note that generators installed by professionals automatically open up and don't backfeed, but generators that homeowners buy off the shelf and plug in themselves can be dangerous if they're connected straight to the breaker.

Also, restoration workers should know when the electricity went out due to a storm. The Wewahitchka homes had been without power for about three weeks.

"The longer they're out of electricity, the more generators that get plugged in," Massey says. Before arriving in Wewahitchka, the Marshall-Dekalb crew restored power in storm-damaged southern Alabama for Wiregrass Electric Cooperative and then completed a job back in their home co-op.

For Massey and his crew, the close call was a reminder to always wear their safety gear, including the V-Watch.

"We wear it all day on storm trips like that," he says.

They wear the V-Watch for local storm restoration work, also. Everybody on the crew has one, and after that memorable day in 2018, they all wear them. They learned that something unexpected can happen — a dead line can suddenly be energized again. The Marshall-Dekalb Electric Cooperative crew has an astonishing story to tell — and they're glad they all lived to tell the story and its happy ending. **D**

PRO TIP

DON'T JUST WEAR IT, INSPECT IT

Conduct regular checks and maintenance of your PPE to guarantee its effectiveness, and never compromise on safety equipment quality, as it serves as your first line of defense against electrical hazards.



◀ A V-Watch demonstration showing the alert system in action when near a hot wire.



By Tim Dobbins

Machines for Electric/ Power Utility Restoration

Get familiar with some manufacturers that put crews above the rest in power infrastructure repair

Power restoration technicians utilizing Terex and Versalift aerial lifts to access lines in need of service.

Of all the things we take for granted in the modern age, electricity may be No. 1 on the list.

After a storm knocks out the power grid, restoring it to working order is necessary for recovery efforts as a whole. Turning the lights back on is the first step to reinstating a state normalcy to a community while simultaneously providing a power source needed by crews to further recovery efforts.

What does this mean for you? There's business in power restoration. Of course, without equipment to take on the jobs, you're left watching from the sideline and waiting for the coach to call your number. Check out the manufacturers below and the products they offer to find the machinery you need to get in the power restoration game or expand your current offerings.

BUCKET TRUCKS

The advantages of getting workers safe access to power lines, transformers and other electrical infrastructure at heights that would otherwise be inaccessible go without saying. The versatility of aerial lifts make them a must-have for utility restoration.

MANUFACTURERS:

Altec offers a vast line of aerial units like non-overcenter, overcenter, telescopic and telescopic articulating lines of trucks with each line consisting of various sizes and abilities. Altec also offers a dual-rated solution, providing both aerial and crane operation for an operator looking for versatility in one vehicle.

Similarly, Dur-A-Lift provides an array of aerial lifts depending on specific needs. They supply multiple telescopic articulating and material handling options and also offer lifts on smaller truck chassis for tighter jobs. Dur-A-Lift also builds a tracked lift solution for post-disaster conditions. The



machine can climb 40-degree slopes and wade through 3 feet of water.

Palfinger is another company that covers the gambit of bucket truck configurations and styles including overcenter, non-overcenter, telescopic and articulated telescopic. They are purpose-built for handling telecommunications, electrical utility, municipal, industrial, tree care and sign markets. Palfinger provides both insulated and non-insulated bucket trucks that can be built-to-order or purchased as a turnkey work-ready vehicle package.

Additional options come from Versalift, makers of the SlopeMax bucket truck safety system. Built knowing level ground isn't always reality, SlopeMax uses multiple omnidirectional sensors to compare base slope and lower boom angles relative to horizontal before the boom is deployed. The system is available on Versalift SST and VST series of trucks.

DIGGER DERRICKS

Digger derricks equipped with a hydraulic auger or a crane and a digging apparatus make easy work of post-hole dig-



ging and placing. And when power lines go down in severe weather or a wildfire, someone needs to put them back up.

MANUFACTURERS:

Altec's line of work vehicles extends well outside bucket trucks. The company also produces a vast line of digger derricks offering numerous configurations and mounting locations specific to the end user's needs. Depending on need, Altec's line covers small, backyard models to transmission and distribution derricks.

The fleet of derricks from Versalift's line of trucks are manufactured with a lightweight design and a focus on ease of maintenance. Among the numerous feature options, users can choose between full pressure hydraulic controls with open-center system or radio remote controls with closed center hydraulic system.

Terex is another manufacturer offering a variety of digger derricks that can be customized to meet your company needs. Whether it is a mounted truck digger or a track digger, Terex is built to support the transmission and utility grid and on a variety of site locations. Users can choose between

Many lifts make light work as crews line up service trucks to quickly restore power following a significant storm.

A utility worker stabilizes and preps a Terex service truck.



Service crews putting their Altec aerial lifts to work.

their Commander and General series, each offering various size and feature options.

Elliott Equipment builds a line of derricks with optional features allowing buyers to build the truck to fit their mold. Various model offerings include a range of sizes built to handle a range of jobs. Their transmission digger derricks are mounted on tandem axle chassis without pusher or tag axles to allow trucks to navigate challenging terrain.

CRANES

Cranes prove useful in a variety of disaster recovery scenarios. Their capabilities of lifting power utility material is only

one benefit. These versatile machines have a place in many areas of disaster recovery. Cranes can assist in deploying and positioning other machinery and equipment as well as play a role in clearing debris and rescue operations.

MANUFACTURERS:

QMC Cranes manufactures an entire line of cranes specific to electric utility work, each one designed with the operator's safety and efficiency in mind. Depending on the model, operators can transport up to 10 tons of payload to a job site and set it with the same truck.

Stellar Industries delivers a range of electric, electric-hydraulic and hydraulic cranes. The variety gives operators plenty of options in power and capacity to cover light or heavy-duty jobs. The company offers models for nearly every truck body so cranes can be set up to customers' desires.

Also supplying a full line of electric, electric-hydraulic and hydraulic cranes is Venco Venturo. Expandable lengths and multiple configurations give plenty of options within each product line. Like the others, Venco Venturo has cranes built for a range of capacity demands.

TREE CARE EQUIPMENT

Forestry bucket trucks, also known as tree-trimming trucks or aerial lift trucks, are typically more compact and utilize smaller booms. These vehicles are often first on scene following a storm to clear trees from power lines, making a clear workspace for other specialty equipment to operate.

Companies like Altec, Dur-A-Lift and Versalift all build trucks rigged for this specialty service. Many of which are versatile units that can also be used outside of tree care.

Exploring as many offerings as possible before selecting is smart business. These manufacturers provide a spectrum of options, from varying configurations to specific functionalities, ensuring that utility companies, contractors, and service providers have access to the right tools for the job. **D**



A Dur-A-Lift tracked aerial lift stabilized and positioned for use.

■ SAMSON PUMPS AND FRUITLAND MANUFACTURING FORM BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Fruitland Manufacturing, a Canadian vacuum solutions manufacturer within the mobile vacuum industry, and Samson Pumps announced a business partnership in North America. The partnership will leverage Samson Pumps' expertise in liquid ring vacuum technology and Fruitland Manufacturing's market experience to deliver unparalleled customer solutions within the mobile vacuum industry.

■ EQUIPMENT DEPOT ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE PROMOTIONS

Equipment Depot, an independently operated material-handling and equipment rental source, added to its core leadership team, including Michael Norelli to vice president of sales, Jeremy Rock as regional vice president of the South Region, and Bryan Leslie to regional vice president of the Pacific Northwest Region. Norelli will work directly with the regional sales teams and national accounts organization to achieve the company's revenue and market share targets. He will also lead the overall business development efforts, focusing on new markets and customers across its 3000-mile footprint. Rock will lead the South Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi markets. Throughout his 13-year career with Equipment Depot, he has a proven track record as general manager of the Houston branch. ▣



A large advertisement for DCR Contractor. The background is a blue-tinted image of a house partially submerged in floodwater. Overlaid on this image is the text "DISASTER CLEANUP & RECOVERY" in small white uppercase letters, followed by "DCR" in large, bold, white uppercase letters, and "CONTRACTOR" in smaller white uppercase letters below it. At the bottom of the ad, the text "IT'S YOUR MAGAZINE. TELL YOUR STORY!" is written in large, bold, white uppercase letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it says "Reach out to us with any and all of your unique projects or challenging jobs. We'd love to hear from you!". At the very bottom, in white text, it says "Email us at: editor@DCRContractor.com".

ELECTRIC/POWER UTILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

By Craig Mandli

GENERATORS

■ ALP GENERATORS 850 W



The propane-powered 850-watt generator from **ALP Generators** means you never worry about storage of gas cans, or a clogged carburetor. It has 850 running watts, which is enough to run most full-size refrigerators, Wi-Fi, a TV, cable box and a few lights, which is what's needed in an emergency. Storage of food, communications, ability to charge cell-phones and laptops or even run a desktop computer allows for current news reports of the area and when the power may be fixed. It is a pure sine wave technology to provide the cleanest of energy, making it suitable for medical devices, computers and all sensitive electronics. A 20-pound propane tank will run for 45 to 60 hours depending on the draw. It weighs 30 pounds, and a remote electric start model is available for people not capable of pulling the start cord. **833-398-4433; www.alpgenerators.com**

■ MILWAUKEE TOOL M18 CARRY-ON 3600W/1800W POWER SUPPLY



Milwaukee Tool's M18 CARRY-ON 3600W/1800W Power Supply provides versatile 15-amp power with less hassle. The push button delivers an instantaneous start, reaching 3,600 starting watts/1,800 running watts of pure sine wave energy to power everything from high-demand 15-amp tools to sensitive electronics. It delivers longer sustained peak power through the most aggressive applications, leveraging four M18 batteries to deliver emissions-free power to the job site while eliminating the hassles associated with gas, such as headaches and routine maintenance. Quiet operation and a compact form allow users to carry it in confined spaces and utility carts. Compatible with a shoulder strap, the light-weight and compact design delivers maximum portability to allow users to bring power wherever it's needed on site. **800-729-3878; www.milwaukeetool.com**

LIFT AND CRANE

■ PATTERSON DAVIT CRANE



Patterson Davit Cranes offer a low maintenance, easy-to-assemble design. They are available in 1/2- and 1-ton capacities with features such as a reliable brake with long life and readily available parts, a hot-dipped galvanized finish and no plastic sheaves or pulleys. The company is a supplier of corrosion-resistant winches, rigging, fittings and custom products for lifting applications in the marine, construction and mining markets. **800-322-2018; www.pattersonmfg.com/davit-cranes**

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

■ CREWPLEX

CrewPlex is a hands-free communication solution to help crews overcome the challenges of continuous communication in environments where noise, distance and task complexity can affect safety and productivity. It enables you to connect your entire crew, supervisors and support personnel team with one system. Users can talk and hear each other in real time without delay, without voice triggering, or pushing a button. Clear audio quality provides better communication in all environments, especially on sites where noise levels can exceed 100 dB. Available connectivity to two-way radio systems keeps work groups in touch with a supervisor and extends the communication reach of an entire work crew. When the job is on the line and the safety of the crew is critical, it provides clear, dependable communication to everyone to ensure the highest levels of safety, productivity and job satisfaction. **334-321-1400; www.crewplex.com**



■ PROCOM HEADSETS ATLAS PRO

The **ATLAS PRO** from **ProCom Headsets** is an all-in-one industrial-grade communication headset designed to withstand the toughest working environments and provide seamless, safe communication with everyone on the job. Crews who already utilize two-way radio systems can also integrate their existing system into the headset to expand communication throughout the entire job site. With over 13-plus hours of battery life and a lightweight design, they can be worn throughout the entire workday without fail. The headset uses ACS high-level encrypted talk channels to ensure interference will not be an issue and all conversations will be private. It is completely open mic, enabling the crew to minimize time spent pressing buttons and maximize time spent working. **727-692-8700; www.procomheadsets.com**



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SPOTLIGHT
by Cory Dellenbach

LIGHTWEIGHT FUEL TANK ENABLES EASY TRANSPORTATION

Having extra fuel nearby could be necessary for contractors working disaster cleaning and recovery scenes, especially if supply chains are down and getting fuel overall could be difficult.

Western Global already offers many field storage solutions, but now the company has the FuelCube Type-S fuel tank as an easily transportable option for those working contractors.

The FuelCube Type-S, a lightweight slip tank for pickup trucks is designed for mobile refueling for small to mid-sized equipment, holding up to 119 gallons of diesel fuel (brim fill) and 113 gallons (safe fill). Thanks to its smaller capacity, the FuelCube Type-S allows the contractor to transport fuel without a hazardous material certification for the driver.

“You don’t have to worry about having a hazmat crew or driver with you,” says Alex Schmantowsky, field product specialist for Western Global. “You can put this into the bed of any truck and drive it to where you want that fuel. We do a ton of work with disaster relief so we know about the logistics of getting fuel to areas where it’s needed.”

The FuelCube Type-S is double-walled and offers 110% containment, eliminating the need for spill pans. A removable inner tank allows for easy routine cleaning, maintenance and inspection. The unit measures 46 inches long, 46 inches wide and 32 inches tall. It weighs 622 pounds empty and 1,565 pounds full.

“All of your pumps and fittings and everything else is all housed inside of the unit, so if for some reason there was a drip from the nozzle or a leak from a fitting, it’s automatically contained,” Schmantowsky says. “You don’t have to worry about environmental hazards.”

Among its standard fittings is a lockable equipment cabinet for security and forklift pockets for easy mobility. The FuelCube Type-S also includes a 1-inch pump feed, vent fill cap, UL plate, durable marine-grade paint specification and stacking brackets. The unit is stackable up to two when empty to reduce storage space.

“The beauty is its adaptability,” Schmantowsky says. “Your average slip tank is confined to the top of the bed with your pump sticking up. Once it’s mounted it’s never coming out. With [the FuelCube Type-S] fuel tank, if you want a mobile fueling vehicle you can do that, and if you want to set it on the ground, you can pick it up with a skid-steer or telehandler and set it on the job site.”

The FuelCube Type-S also has many optional fittings that contractors can have added, including a direct reading float gauge, 12-volt, 24-volt or 115-volt pump kits, lifting slings (when empty), hoses, quick couplers and filters.

“This is really ready for the next generation of heavy equipment that is using diesel fuel,” says Schmantowsky.

866-814-2470; western-global.com/us



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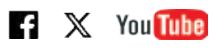
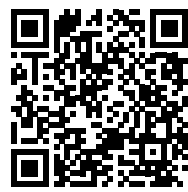
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