

Safety Talk

Severe Weather



PRESENTED BY:

MEETING START TIME:

DATE OF MEETING:

MEETING END TIME:

Keep the Conversation Going with a Safety Talk Question:

How Can We Improve Our
Preparation for Severe
Weather on this Project?

1. Understand the Threats – Severe weather comes in many different forms, each with unique hazards and potential for loss.

- Lightning & Thunderstorms: Injury can include cardiac arrest, shock, trauma, and burns. Workers in open space or proximity to tall metal structures are particularly vulnerable.
- Heavy Rains: Risks include flash flooding, run off, landslides, and infrastructure failure. Visibility is reduced and risk of slip/trip/fall and collision is increased.
- Heavy Snow: Blizzards can cause structural collapse, power outages, equipment failure, and material performance failure. Visibility is impaired and exposure to workers include cold stress (hypothermia, frostbite, and more), heart stress/overexertion, and slip/trip/fall.
- High Winds: Hazards include structural collapse, equipment instability and tip-overs (especially cranes and lifts), material failure and blow-off (roofing, sheathing, fencing, etc.), power line contact, and unsecured material or debris strikes. Dust or soil being lifted reduces visibility and increases risk of collision and respiratory irritation.
- Extreme Heat: Higher temperatures often cause fatigue, overexertion, and dehydration. Heavy physical labor and use of PPE can further heighten exposure. These conditions can cause reduced reaction time, impaired judgment, falls, and cardiovascular events. Equipment and material performance can also be impaired.
- Extreme Cold: Lower temperatures bring the same risks as extreme heat along with affecting visibility (frozen windshields) and a greater risk of slip/trip/fall when ice forms.

2. Better Preparation – Best Practices for Workers

- Stay Informed – Regularly check local weather forecasts and sign up for severe weather alerts to stay ahead of incoming potentially hazardous conditions.
- Know the Plan – Become familiar with your organization's formal plans for preparation and emergency action. Confirm communication procedures, evacuation routes, and shelter locations. Participate in safety drills to build muscle memory and minimize confusion when severe weather strikes.
- Understand the Job Site – Identify vulnerable areas. Examples include large open zones (foundations, parking lots), low lying excavations, drainage paths/run off zones, scaffolding and elevated structures, temporary structures, roofing and exposed frames, electrical equipment zones, and tall equipment zones (cranes, lifts, etc.).
- Personal Protective Equipment – Check that you have the proper gear for the specific severe weather and that it is in proper working condition before you enter the site.
- Emergency Resources – Ensure the presence of First Aid Kits, AED's, cold packs, heat stress supplies, emergency blankets, etc. To secure materials and equipment, check stock of tie-downs, tarps, heaters, fans, etc.



Loss Control



- Equipment and Materials – Secure anything that can become a projectile with safety devices (tie downs, chains, tarps, etc.) and/or proper storage/containment in a designated area, structure, or offsite location.
- Trust Your Instinct – Do not hesitate or wait for an official warning to stop work early if you feel conditions have become too hazardous or your feel unsafe.
- Communicate and Promote – Inform co-workers of weather alerts and spread awareness to increase a culture of safety.

Sources:

1. <https://www.weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm>
2. <https://legalclarity.org/osha-rain-safety-requirements-for-construction-and-industry>
3. <https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter-snow>
4. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/high-winds.page>
5. <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange-science/extreme-heat>
6. <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/SevereWeatherPoster.pdf>
7. <https://www.weather.gov/media/bmx/outreach/Outreach/NWSBookmark.pdf>



Loss Control

Worker Comments / Feedback:

To be signed by all employees, contract workers, clients and others who participated in the safety talk prior to commencing work.

Signatures:

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