

Toolbox Talk



Greater Houston
Chapter

Weather

Company Name _____

Speaker Name/Job Title _____ Date _____

We have no control over rain, snow, sleet, wind, lightning or sunshine. But we can control what happens on our job as a result of the elements. Some of the biggest problems on construction jobs are caused by wind and lightning. Wind probably causes the most accidents; lightning can be deadly.

WATCH OUT FOR WIND

- Don't let the wind catch you off guard. Don't just think of tornadoes or hurricanes, but of everyday winds and unexpected gusts.
- Wind just loves to pick up anything it can and sail it away. So when it's windy, securely tie or weight down supplies and materials. It's amazing what a little wind can do. Some gusts can pick up a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood from the top of a high rise building and carry it several blocks. Or blow you off a scaffold.
- For example, on one occasion, the wind blew empty 50 gallon drums off a 15-story building. One drum went through the roof of a tool shed. What would have happened if the drum had landed on you?
- It seems the higher you go, the stronger the wind. When working on tall buildings, stay away from roof edges, floor openings, and similar drop-offs where the wind could blow you over.
- Weight down or otherwise secure material or equipment that can be blown down.
- Don't loiter on the leeward side of un-braced walls, lumber stacks or anything else that can be blown over by a sudden gust of wind. In many instances, workers have been seriously injured when an un-braced wall or form was blown over on them while they were sitting in its shade during lunch or before starting work.

LIGHTNING HURTS

- We all like to keep things moving until we're rained out. But when lightning is around, it's safer to take shelter early. Very often an electrical storm occurs without rain. Or a lightning storm precedes the rain.
- If you're working with a crane, on top of steel frame-work, or around other projecting equipment or a building the safest thing to do is to seek shelter when you see lightning.
- You'll be reasonably safe from lightning in-side the structure, particularly when it's equipped with lightning rods. You'll also be fairly safe in an automobile or truck.
- Never take shelter under an isolated tree or where you're in contact with a tractor, crane, or other equipment.
- If you get caught out in the open, stay as low as you can. It's much safer to be down in a ditch than on top of the ground.

RAIN CAN RUIN A JOB

- Rain can turn can turn a jobsite into a gigantic mud pie. Water seems to get in everywhere. Rain can ruin building materials and supplies and generally make things down right messy. Steel gets slippery, equipment gets stuck, and we get wet.
- By covering equipment, materials, tools, supplies and ourselves, we don't give rain a chance to do as much damage as it could.
- We can eliminate slipping hazards by sweeping water out of low areas used as passageways inside of buildings under construction.

DON'T SLIP ON ICE AND SNOW

- When we work in colder climates, ice and snow make things slippery.
- Clean and sand any work surfaces, such as scaffolds and passageways, where there is ice and snow.
- We need the best possible footing we can get. We don't want to end up like one fellow. He didn't sweep off the scaffold one afternoon after some light snow had fallen during the morning. He slipped and fell ten stories to his death.

Further Safety Recommendations by Meeting Attendees

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Meeting Attended By:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____