

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Job site Severe Weather Plans

Construction job sites are vulnerable to severe weather including thunderstorms, tornados, high winds and even ice and snow. By nature, some job sites can be bare earth, with few choices for storm refuge. This lack of refuge increases the importance of severe weather plans. Job site Severe Weather Plans should be created to protect employees when severe weather bears down.

### WORKSAFE TIPS

#### JOB SITE SEVERE WEATHER PLANNING

- All job site workers need to know the job site severe weather plan.
- Train new employees to know the job site severe weather plan.
- Have a plan for high winds and tornado, heavy rain and flooding as well as lightning.
- Have a severe weather radio that is available and loud enough to notify job site workers.
  - Purchase a quality severe weather radio and connect it to a remote loudspeaker
- Create a severe weather audible job site warning:
  - Purchase a sports air horn & train employees to recognize its sound as a severe weather warning.
- Identify locations appropriate for storm refuge.
- Clearly mark severe weather refuges.
- Make storm refuge areas readily accessible.
- If no refuge area is available, have an agreement with neighboring businesses for storm refuge.
  - Know where to go inside their building
- Do a head count during storm refuge operations.
- Trenches & holes are off limits as they flood.

#### SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY RULES

- Suspend crane operations.
- All scaffold workers shall evacuate the scaffold.
- Workers atop boom lifts shall suspend operations.
- Trench workers or workers down in holes shall come up to surface level in case of flooding.
- Suspend welding operations.
- Workers atop ladders shall suspend operations.

#### SEVERE WEATHER PLANNING

- Know the weather forecast.
- If the weather isn't available on the job, tune into local radio stations for weather updates.
- Phone employees at other locations that have internet access for weather updates.
  - Check [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) for weather
- Make weather plans before the day begins.
- Give workers a "heads up" about weather when the work day begins.
  - Review the severe weather plan.
  - Review storm refuge locations.
- Keep supervisors aware of any weather severe thunderstorm / tornado warnings or watches.
- Utilize a severe weather warning radio.
- If no electricity is available, purchase a radio that can plug into a vehicle cigarette lighter.
- Connect the severe weather radio to a sound-boosting external speaker.
- Purchase a weather radio that has an audible warning beep or tone that catches attention.

#### DURING THE STORM

- Use a warning device to notify employees.
- Assist employees to refuge areas.
- Assist supervisors in organizing employees.
- Perform a head count in refuge areas.

#### AFTER THE STORM

- Perform a head count after the storm passes.
- Perform a job site safety evaluation.
- Review trenches for potential collapse hazards.
- Review electrical services / transmission lines.
- Review scaffolding for hazards.
- Review the severe weather plan with employees and for improvements / needs.



**Smart, Accident-Free Environments**

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