

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

Vol. 22

No. 18

Week of 05/3/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

SEVERE WEATHER

The weather is always a factor in the construction business. Some days the weather is great and it is truly a pleasure to be able to work outside. Other days the weather is a nuisance — it's cold, rainy, or just too hot. At times, it's far more than a nuisance, it's **dangerous**. Severe weather like tornadoes, lightning, strong winds, heavy rain, and hail can be particularly hazardous for construction workers because there may not be adequate shelter on the jobsite.

In an average year, tornadoes cause hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and claim over 100 lives. The National Weather Service issues two different alerts when the danger of a tornado exists: the tornado watch and the tornado warning. A **tornado watch** means that weather conditions are right for a tornado, and that one could develop quickly. A **tornado warning** means that a tornado has actually been sighted, or that one has been picked up on radar.

The United States averages 89 lightning related deaths each year. Make sure that you're not one of them. You should seek shelter inside a building, away from windows, doors, fireplaces, and electrical appliances. If you are caught in the open, the National Severe Storms Laboratory suggests that you crouch down with only your feet on the ground. **Do not** lie flat on the ground. The goal is to be as low as possible, and still minimize your contact with the ground. Stay away from cranes, towers, electric lines, trees, and fences; the distance between you and any of these objects should be at least twice the height of the object.

Don't let the wind catch you off guard, make sure that tools and equipment are secure when it is windy. A strong gust of wind can knock you off balance; this is especially dangerous when you are carrying large items like plywood, or when you are working near the edge of a building.

The heavy rains and hail that accompany thunderstorms can also be destructive and dangerous. Flash flooding or excavation cave-ins could occur. While large hail is not too common, getting hit on the head by a baseball-sized ice cube will hurt. Hail can also do a great deal of damage to unprotected materials and equipment.

If there is a possibility of severe weather, someone should listen to a local radio station for forecasts and storm warnings. Take a few minutes today, before severe weather strikes, and find out what to do and where to go when a hazardous storm approaches.

SAFETY REMINDER

When in doubt, seek shelter from the weather.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____