

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____

Date _____

EXTREME WEATHER

Each year people are killed or seriously injured by the effects of extreme weather. You can protect yourself from the dangers of thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and high temperatures by staying informed, being prepared, and keeping up with severe weather watches and warnings. Conditions on a construction project call for careful attention to the weather at all times.

Thunderstorms: Severe thunderstorms can produce strong winds capable of blowing building materials around or knocking you off a ladder. Thunderstorms can also produce heavy rain, various sizes of hail, and lightning. Lightning often gives no warning and strikes with devastation. Before a thunderstorm, seek shelter indoors. Whenever possible, lower crane booms to prevent them from becoming lightning rods during electrical storms. If you're caught in a storm, avoid walking or standing near tall trees, metal objects (such as fences), and open water.

Floods: Flash flooding is the number one cause of death associated with thunderstorms, causing more than 140 fatalities each year. Flooding can occur in low-lying areas and can happen even if there hasn't been any rain in your vicinity. Water from other areas can flow onto your jobsite. Floods can be especially dangerous if you are working in

trenches or confined spaces. Trenches and excavations that have been filled with water don't just need to have the water pumped out. Make sure a competent person inspects the entire excavation since standing water can change the stability of the walls.

Tornadoes: Tornadoes can occur at any time throughout the year but are most likely in the spring and summer. Although they have occurred in every state, they hit most frequently to the east of the Rocky Mountains. Tornadoes can create rotating winds with speeds over 250 mph. Flying debris causes many deaths during tornadoes. Seek shelter immediately in a sturdy, reinforced building. Never count on being able to outrun a tornado in any vehicle.

Hurricanes: This type of severe storm is preceded by days of warning from the National Weather Service. Heed those warnings and use some of the advance notice to remove or secure building materials. Move equipment to high ground to prevent it from being damaged by flooding.

Sun, Humidity, and High Temperatures: Heat affects everyone. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures, high humidity, and direct sun can cause heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, which can lead to death. Learn to recognize the symptoms so you can call for help.

Advance warning often comes before extreme weather strikes.

SAFETY REMINDER

Listen for weather reports on the news or radio, and look for visual indications of approaching bad weather.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____

Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.