

Effects of Weather

There is one element in the construction business that we have no control over—the elements—the weather. However, we can control how the weather affects the safety of a project.

Guide for Discussion

Wind:

- Can blow dust in your eyes.
- Can blow materials and people off scaffolds, roofs or higher floors.
- Can blow down poorly braced formwork or newly framed walls.

Lightning:

- Often electrical storms occur without any rain. Therefore are very dangerous.
- Be sure to stay away from any type of tall object.
- If working around iron or rebar and lightning is seen, clear the area.

Rain, Sleet, Ice and Snow:

- All four are wet, some are cold, and all can cause slips, trips and falls.
- Snow, sleet and ice can cover floor openings and cause more slips, trips and falls.
- Mud can result in pulled muscles from straining.
- All four can ruin construction materials.
- Water, ice and snow can affect trenches and other excavations.
- Closely inspect all excavations to determine how the weather is affecting them.
- Water, when it accumulates on a jobsite, increases the changes for electrocution.

Additional Discussion Notes:

- What other weather elements can adversely affect the jobsite?
- What our policy is when working in high areas to tie down equipment or people?
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- Who has the authority to shut down a job because of the danger of high winds?

Remember: When dealing with the weather and the effects of it on a construction project, use common sense and try to minimize the adverse effects.

Attendees:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.