

Effects of Weather

There is one element in the construction industry that we have no control over - 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. Lightning storms 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 can 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.
- When water accumulates on a jobsite, it increases the chances for electrocution.

Remember:

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

