



## TOOLBOX TALK #32

### “Weather” to Be Safe?

We have hazards related to cold in the winter and heat in the summer, but this time of year poses a particular weather concern that we have to take very seriously. Summertime is here, and that means thunderstorms. Need I remind you, our job is to work on metal buildings? We are targets of lightning and wind. And, a storm doesn't have to be on top of us to hurt us.

We can break things down into three major categories:

- Electricity/lightning/equipment
- Wind
- Water/rain

Electricity comes in the form of lightning. The storm can be off in the distance and still strike our project. If any of us are on it when that happens, our lives are in danger. Lightning does not just travel north to south. It can cross the sky east to west or west to east before finding a good target. Lightning wants to hit the ground. It seeks things to help it get there, including cranes, towers and construction projects. If a thunderstorm can be seen, we shut down. Wind, of course, typically hits before rain or lightning. This can cause instability of our projects and hazards to those on them. We have to plan our day with the expectation that wind may cause safety concerns at some point and not expose our project to collapse or our people injury. Each member of the crew will have a role to play in securing our job site.

Water, in the form of rain, is harmless if you are playing in your backyard, but dangerous on a construction site. It lies around and can cause electrical hazards and slip and fall hazards. Be sure to carefully inspect work areas following rain, even if the rain fell Friday night and it's now Monday morning. This is common sense, but people have been hurt ignoring things more common than weather. We want to complete the job and get our hours, but not at the expense of any of you.

**Facilitator Notes:** Discuss your policy in detail. When do you shut down a job? Make this clear, and reinforce the procedures for securing a job site during a storm. Review the current job site for places water can gather following rain and discuss the potential for exposure to electrical equipment or extension cords, or as a slip and fall hazard.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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List additional attendees on back of sheet