

WORKING IN POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS

1. Task

Working safely in various kinds of poor weather conditions.

2. Hazards

Fog - (visibility), cold - (frostbite, hypothermia, slip hazard, material handling hazard), rain - (flood hazard, drowning hazard, electrocution, slip hazard, material handling hazard), lightning - (electrocution, fire hazard), wind - (hoisting hazard, eye hazards from wind blown particles, material handling hazard, structural and scaffold collapse) heat - (heat stroke, heat cramps, heat exhaustion), vehicular hazards – (reduced braking and steering capacity, poor visibility) Sunburn.

3. Controls

Pre-Job Safety Assessment (PSA). CSA /ANSI approved PPE, appropriate clothing, snow, ice, and water removal equipment, temporary heating, weather reports, GFCIs, emergency planning, worker training, competent supervision.

- ❖ Always plan ahead for working in poor weather.
- ❖ Analyze the tasks that will be performed, and plan accordingly.
- ❖ Consult weather forecasts prior to mobilizing workforce and equipment.
- ❖ Winter protection structures and temporary heating must be planned and implemented to control extreme conditions when possible.
- ❖ To help prevent heat stress disorders, use fans and other means to increase airflow in work areas.
- ❖ Give workers frequent breaks in a cool, shaded area, away from heat sources.
- ❖ Make cool, clean, potable water and drinking cups available to workers.
- ❖ Make allowances for workers who must wear personal protective clothing and equipment that retains heat, and is bulky and awkward.
- ❖ On extremely windy days, craning and hoisting operations should cease and be rescheduled.
- ❖ Materials and equipment must be secured to ensure that they are not picked up or moved by high winds, causing personal injury or property damage.
- ❖ Work scheduled to be performed at heights from power elevated work platforms or suspended access equipment, (swingstages), should be rescheduled.
- ❖ All exposed skin should be protected when working in cold conditions.
- ❖ Exposed skin and eyes should be protected when working in bright sunshine when UV rays are in high concentrations. Apply sunscreen as needed.
- ❖ Frostbite occurs after relatively short exposure to temperatures of 0 degrees Celsius and less.
- ❖ Snow and ice must be removed from work surfaces in order to prevent falls and slip hazards.
- ❖ Heavy accumulations of snow are capable of collapsing roofs and other structures, and must be removed.
- ❖ GFCI's must be used with power tools when working outside in order to help prevent electrocution.
- ❖ Work surfaces can become slippery when wet, caution must be exercised accordingly, and water removed from work surfaces.
- ❖ Accumulations of rain can cause soil to become unstable causing the collapse of trenches and excavations.
- ❖ Rainfall may swell drainage ditches, creeks, rivers, sewers, and other bodies of water, creating flooding and drowning hazards.
- ❖ Fast moving floodwater can cause damage and eventual collapse of structures and scaffolding.
- ❖ Sumps and other below grade structures may become drowning hazards if filled with water due to heavy rainfall.
- ❖ Lightning poses an electrocution and fire hazard. No worker should be present on any roof during lightning activity, and no worker should be working in an open area with any kind of material or equipment that conducts electricity. Cranes must be shut down when lightning activity is present or is moving close to the area of operation.



Best Personnel Safe Work Practices & Procedures Manual

- ❖ Standing water needs to be removed, especially since it is an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Some municipalities have issued by-laws regarding the removal of standing water. If standing water cannot be removed quickly, bleach can be used temporarily.
- ❖ When a heavy fog condition exists, all major hoisting operations, work in heavy traffic areas, work that is done at heights, and vehicular operation on site should be postponed until the fog clears and visibility is restored.