

THUNDERSTORM AND LIGHTNING PREPAREDNESS



Thunderstorm and Lightning Preparedness

Toolbox Talk

Lightning, heavy rainfall and high winds accompany the nearly 100,000 thunderstorms that occur annually in the United States. These storms can result in injuries, loss of life and property damage.

Thunderstorms and lightning can be a significant issue for employees working outdoors. The risk of being struck by lightning increases when individuals are outdoors near isolated tall objects, in open spaces, and close to metal objects.

Proper thunderstorm and lightning safety precautions should be taken, such as:

- Check weather forecast at the beginning of the shift.
- Identify the safe shelter areas on site.
- Know what to do in case of an emergency.
- Know where the nearest medical treatment facility is located.

The best way to protect yourself from thunderstorms is to avoid the threat. If you are caught outside during a thunderstorm, take shelter in a substantial, permanent, enclosed structure that contains plumbing or wiring. If such a place is unavailable, then select an enclosed metal vehicle for a suitable shelter. Do not seek shelter in open areas, on high ground under tall, isolated objects, or near materials that can conduct electricity.

Make sure the place you choose for shelter is not prone to flooding during heavy rains. Go to a low-lying, open place, away from trees, poles and metal objects that is not susceptible to flooding when no other safe cover is available.

Points To Remember

- There are a variety of weather apps available to track severe weather.
- WeatherBug (an app available on any app store) allows you to click the “Spark” button, which will show you how close the nearest lightning strike has been to your location in the last 30 minutes.