

>> TOOLBOX TALK – Wind Hazards

Weather plays an important role on how we work safely on our job sites. High wind is a component of weather that can pose many hazards for workers. Our task is to: protect our workers and the public from hazards on a construction site; provide securement; and facilitate safe passage.

Hazards created by wind can include, but are not limited to:

- Objects falling from elevated surfaces.
- Struck-by incidents, due to objects blown around.
- Eye injuries caused by flying dust and debris.
- Equipment damage due to being tipped over by forceful winds.
- Dropped loads while performing a lift in high winds.
- Increased loads on tarped or hoarded structures causing a tip-over or collapse.
- Failure of scaffold hoarding and site fencing due to improper material and design.
- Unplanned movement of overhead power lines.

Eliminating/mitigating hazards related to high winds

- Eliminate the hazards by stopping a work task that poses a hazard due to wind conditions (i.e., roof work, lifting operations).
- Jobs involving aerial lifts, cranes and sheathing materials must be properly evaluated with wind conditions.
- Different or additional PPE may be required (goggles vs. safety glasses against flying dust and debris).
- Park heavy equipment and light duty vehicles so that the wind is not blowing directly against the side used to enter/exit the vehicle.
- Do not react or reach for dropping objects (i.e. losing a hardhat in the wind). This can result in slips, falls and strain/sprains.
- All hoarding must be designed/engineered to sustain loads to which it is likely to be subjected, such as wind, snow loads and falling debris.
- Fencing must be set back an appropriate distance from the edge of an excavation - which varies depending on site conditions.
- Where a scaffold is enclosed by a tarp or other cover, induced loads (i.e. wind) must be considered. Consult with the manufacturer's instructions for the scaffold or seek the direction of a professional engineer.

Preplanning a task is critical to reduce risk to workers. Weather is a major factor in what job tasks can commence on a daily basis and/or what precautions must be in place before starting a job. Be attentive to daily weather forecasts, in particular wind speeds, and plan each task accordingly.

Complete and attach Toolbox Meeting Form and process as per company policy.



TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

Date: _____ Project: _____

Supervisor: _____ No. in Crew: _____ No. Attending: _____

Review Last Meeting:

	Names of Attendees (Signature Required)
Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):	
Suggestions Offered:	
Action(s) to be Taken:	
Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:	

Supervisor's Remarks: _____

Signature: _____