



Wind Hazards

Weather plays an important role on how we work safely on our job sites. High winds 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 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 tipping over by forceful winds.
- Dropped loads while performing a lift in high winds.
- Increased loads on tarped or hoarded structures causing 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 and 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.