Survive Hazardous Weather

Safety Talk

WHAT’S AT STAKE?

Weather can affect your safety both on and off the job. Even if you don’t work outside, just getting to and from work in bad weather can be hazardous.

WHAT’S THE DANGER?

Driving or walking in rain can be dangerous, with drivers’ visibility reduced, but other weather-related dangers include lightning (electrocution), heat illnesses and wind hazards.

EXAMPLE

If driving, you could skid into tragedy. In heavy rain, pedestrians are harder to see and tires are likely to skid on slippery surfaces

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Use caution when driving in a rainstorm.

Slow down below the speed limit, and keep a safety buffer between your car and others. Learn the dashboard controls so you can dim lights, adjust wiper speed or de-mist windows without looking away from the road. Brake gently. Steer with a light touch.

Avoid flooded areas, or drive carefully. Puddles can cause tires to “hydroplane” or lose contact with the road. Deeper water can wet brakes and halt their functioning. Water splashed up into the engine compartment can stall your car and strand you.

Even walking in bad weather can be difficult. Remember that rain

makes you less visible to drivers. Wear light colored or reflective clothing in bad weather or after dark.

Wear proper footwear. Slippery conditions can cause you to lose footing on a crosswalk.

If working outside, be aware of other hazards.

Avoid climbing ladders or scaffolding during high winds, rain, ice or snow. In heavy rainstorms, stay away from possible sources of flooding, such as rivers, underpasses and large storm sewers.

In some areas, hail or a thunderstorm can signal an approaching tornado. Listen to a radio for weather warnings and instructions. Find cover inside a solid building or storm shelter.

In hot weather, slow down, dress for conditions and drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids. You may feel distracted, so pay close attention to your work.

Be cautious if lightning or a thunderstorm is on the way.

Get off the baseball diamond or golf course. Get to shore if you are swimming or boating. Get rid of metal baseball bats and golf clubs. Move away from tall metal masts on your sailboat. They all conduct electricity. If you can’t get inside a building, crouch in a low spot. Never shelter under a tall tree.

FINAL WORD

Keep an eye on the weather. Caution is your best defense.