

November 20, 2023

# Windy Day Safety

Good morning AJK,

Today and tomorrow are expected to have high winds. We have to remember to be safe on windy days so I thought I would share this with all of you.

## High Wind Hazards

Every construction job site is different so not every site will have the same hazards that can be created by high winds. Some high wind hazards include but are not limited to:

- Strains and sprain due to wind forcefully pulling doors from the operator's hands
- Struck-by incidents due to objects being blown around
- Slips, falls, and trips due to workers reacting to a falling hardhat or object due to the wind blowing these items over
- Eye injuries due to small particles of flying debris and dust
- Dropped loads while completing lifts with wind present
- Objects falling from elevated surfaces
- Unplanned movement of overhead powerlines.

If you see some hazards on your job site you should always alert your coworkers as well as your supervisor. If you are unsure of something being a hazard it is always better to speak up.

## How to Prepare for High Winds

In order to keep yourself and other workers safe on a construction job site there are several things you can do to prepare:

- Check weather reports and monitor conditions continuously. Do not schedule work at elevations on days when high winds are in the forecast.
- Ensure partially built structures are properly secured and supported at all times regardless of weather conditions and that walls are braced until the building is complete.
- Ensure scaffolding and other temporary structures are secure and can not be blown over.

## How to Stay Safe During High Winds

- Never work on scaffoldings, roofs, or other elevations during strong winds.
- Ensure that tools are packed away safely and that roofing sheets, cones, signage, and other loose materials are safely secured. A high wind can pick up a piece of scrap metal and carry it outside the job site into a road and cause an accident or worse.
- Wear eye protection to keep dust, debris, and other foreign particles from blowing into the eyes.
- Ensure safety helmets are securely fastened and can not be blown off your head.

- Use extreme caution when picking up large sections of plywood or similar flat materials that can fly through the air.
- Cease all crane operations until wind speeds return to acceptable levels.
- When driving to work keep your distance from other vehicles and watch for debris such as tree branches.
- Don't drive next to high profile vehicles because they can swerve in a gust or turn over in some cases.

## High Wind Best Practices

Take a few minutes to look over your work area and site for potential hazards due to high winds. Discuss with other workers what you think could be done to eliminate or reduce the potential for injury and equipment damage.

Some of the best practices to eliminate hazards and injuries related to high winds include:

- Eliminate work tasks altogether that become dangerous in windy conditions.
- Park trucks and equipment where the wind is blowing against the opposite side that the operator enters and exits.
- Do not reach or react to dropping an object or losing a hardhat to the wind. This can be very dangerous especially when you are on an elevated surface.
- Do not attempt to conduct lifting operations during high wind events. Make sure to ask your supervisor if they are monitoring high winds and ask when you should stop working.
- Never stand in the line of fire! This could mean with a lifted load, next to a truck dumping material or downwind from blowing dust.
- Wear safety glasses but you should also consider wearing goggles if the dust and debris are getting worse.

Not all injuries can be prevented but when you and your coworkers work together to try to have a safe job site the potential for injuries can decrease.

On a construction site, it is critical that you pre-plan your day and your tasks to ensure safety. You will find that weather can play a major role in what tasks you will be able to do that day and ones you will have to wait on. When high winds are going to be present, plan work accordingly. Avoid certain tasks during high winds as well as use the safeguards you have been taught to ensure your safety as well as the safety of your coworkers.

### **Safety Steve**

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