

SAFETY MEETING

Company Name: Superior Waterproofing

Tool Talk #46

Date: 11/26/2021

WEATHER

WHY TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER? Actually, we have no control over rain, snow, sleet, wind, lightning or sunshine. But we can control what happens on our job as a result of the elements.

WATCH OUT FOR WIND - I'm not just thinking of tornadoes or hurricanes, but of everyday winds and unexpected gusts. Wind loves to pick up anything it can and sail it away. So when it's windy, securely tie or weigh down supplies and materials. Some gusts can pick up a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood from the top of a high rise building and carry it several blocks. Or blow you off a scaffold. On one occasion, the wind blew empty 50 gallon drums off a 15-story building. One drum went through the roof of a tool shed. What would have happened if the drum had landed on you?

It seems the higher you go, the stronger the wind. When working on tall buildings, stay away from roof edges, floor openings, and similar drop-offs where the wind could blow you over. Weight down or otherwise secure material or equipment that can be blown down.

Don't loiter on the leeward side of un-braced walls, lumber stacks or anything else that can be blown over by a sudden gust of wind. In many instances, workers have been seriously injured when an un-braced wall or form was blown over on them while they were sitting in its shade during lunch or before starting work.

LIGHTNING HURTS - Every so often we read about workers being struck by lightning. They usually come out second best. Count the number of seconds from when you see the lightning flash until you hear the thunder. If you count 30 seconds or less you are in immediate danger. Recently a hook-up man was electrocuted when lightning struck the crane boom while he was holding on to the hook preparing some materials to be lifted.

We all like to keep things moving until we're rained out. But when lightning is around, it's safer to take shelter early. Very often an electrical storm occurs without rain. Or a lightning storm precedes the rain. So if you're working with a crane, on top of steel frame-work, or around other projecting equipment or a building the safest thing to do is to seek shelter when you see lightning.

You'll be reasonably safe from lightning inside the structure, particularly when it's equipped with lightning rods. You'll also be fairly safe in an automobile or truck. But never take shelter under an isolated tree or in contact with a tractor, crane, or other equipment. If you get caught out in the open, stay as low as you can. It's much safer to be down in a ditch than on top of the ground.

RAIN CAN RUIN A JOB - Rain can ruin building materials and supplies and generally make things down right messy. Steel gets slippery, equipment gets stuck, and we get wet. By covering equipment, materials, tools, supplies and ourselves, we don't give rain a chance to do as much damage as it could. We can eliminate slipping hazards by sweeping water out of low areas used as passageways inside of buildings under construction.

DON'T SLIP ON ICE AND SNOW - When we work in colder climates, ice and snow make things slippery. Clean and sand any work surfaces, such as scaffolds and passageways, where there is ice and snow. Or turn the planks over. We need the best possible footing we can get. We don't want to end up like one fellow. He didn't sweep off the scaffold one afternoon after some light snow had fallen during the morning. He slipped and fell ten stories to his death.

QUESTIONS: 1. How many seconds between lightning and thunder means immediate danger? _____

WHAT UNSAFE OPERATIONS DID YOU FIND ON YOUR JOBSITE THIS WEEK? _____

What Corrective action was taken? _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____