

High wind

A period in which wind speeds are $\geq 30\text{mph}$ (13.4m/s-1).

Checklist for managing site activities and assets during adverse weather.

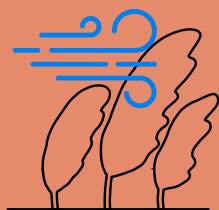
Get ahead in readiness for adverse weather. Improve safety and limit damage.

Key issues: High wind

- Strong winds can pose a severe risk during construction projects and can be responsible for collapse accidents.
- High winds increase the risk of accidents through flying debris, difficulties handling materials, falls and structural damage.
- Wind is particularly hazardous due to its unpredictability.
- High winds make some construction tasks such as work at height on scaffolding or roofs, lifting operations and handling sheet materials, challenging or impossible.
- Working at height exposes workers to stronger wind gusts and falls are significant or can be fatal.
- Lifting operations can be impacted by even light winds and risk dropping loads.
- Partially demolished and temporary structures are at significant risk during high winds and can lead to sudden, unplanned collapses.
- Power lines can move, touch and spark in high winds.

General checklist: High wind

- ☐ Evaluate the impact of wind events on construction and scaffolding.
- ☐ Use signage and temporary road closures to protect the public where necessary.
- ☐ Inspect partially demolished and temporary structures after high-wind weather events for strength and stability.
- ☐ Avoid and reschedule work at height, such as on roofs or scaffolds.
- ☐ Use temporary windbreaks and fencing to protect public from blown debris.
- ☐ Conduct start and end-of-day inspections of wind damage. Conduct regular inspections to identify potential wind hazards such as loose materials, unsecured equipment or vulnerable structures.
- ☐ Maintain a safe distance from any power lines.



High wind

A period in which wind speeds are $\geq 30\text{mph}$ (13.4m/s-1).

Checklist for managing site activities and assets during adverse weather.

Get ahead in readiness for adverse weather. Improve safety and limit damage.

Worker checklist: High wind

- ☐ Discuss safety and schedule with workers. Be prepared to stop work if unsafe.
- ☐ Reschedule work or implement additional safety measures/adapt risk and method statements (RAMS) considering wind.
- ☐ Have an emergency response plan (ERP) for wind-related incidents.
- ☐ Set wind speed and gust limits for work at height (eg on scaffolding and roofs). Stop work when limits are exceeded.
- ☐ Follow crane manufacturers' instructions for wind speed and gust limits (and other criteria), which vary by crane type. Cease crane operations when limits (Kendon, M., Doherty, A., Hollis, D et al, 2025) are exceeded and schedule for when conditions improve.
- ☐ Review safe use of lifting equipment, including cranes, hoists, jacks, winches, mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs), telehandlers and forklifts.
- ☐ Avoid moving/lifting large sections of flat materials (eg plasterboard, plywood, roofing sheets or tarpaulins) as they can act as a sail.
- ☐ Provide indoor spaces where workers can shelter from high wind.
- ☐ Ensure PPE is appropriate. Provide eye protection/safety glasses to keep dust, foreign particles and debris blowing into eyes. Ensure that hard hats are fastened and cannot be blown off.
- ☐ Keep records of wind speeds on site and assess the effectiveness of high-wind safety measures for future reference.

Site checklist: High wind

- ☐ As well as checking forecasts, monitor wind speed and wind gusts using an on-site weather station with an anemometer.
- ☐ Ensure tools are packed away (in designated areas/racks) and loose materials, cones and signage are safely secured.
- ☐ Ensure scaffolding, cranes and temporary structures (eg site offices and WCs) are properly secured or anchored to withstand strong winds. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for safety procedures and wind speed limits. Regularly inspect temporary structures to ensure they remain stable.
- ☐ Ensure scaffold is secure and ties are in place (eg have not been removed to allow brickwork to be laid). If the scaffold has been loaded out (with bricks, for example) in preparation for work, these may have to be removed.
- ☐ Lower crane booms and secure loads when not in use.
- ☐ Implement automatic wind-monitoring systems for cranes to provide real-time warnings and limit operations in high winds.
- ☐ If lifting is possible, ensure tag lines are used when hoisting materials with large flat surfaces.
- ☐ Ensure building materials are stored securely (covered where appropriate) to prevent them being displaced or damaged by wind.
- ☐ Cover loose building materials to prevent them becoming a dust storm.
- ☐ Use temporary windbreaks and fencing to shield works and equipment from high winds.