



Storm

**Windspeeds $\geq 55\text{mph}$ (24.59m/s^{-1}).
Typically strong winds, heavy rainfall and often lightning.**

Checklist for managing site activities and assets during adverse weather.

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

Key issues: Storm

Refer to separate flooding checklist for 'after-flood' clean-up and precautions.

- Storms increase the risk of accidents through flying debris, difficulties handling materials, falls, structural damage, erosion, flooding, slippery surfaces and fatigue.
- Storms are particularly hazardous due to their unpredictability.
- Storms make many construction tasks challenging or impossible. Construction may need to be shut down during storms to protect workers and prevent damage to the site.
- Strong winds can pose a severe risk during construction projects. Scaffolding and partially constructed/demolished structures are at risk of sudden, unplanned collapses.
- Working at height exposes workers to stronger wind gusts and falls are significant or can be fatal.
- Wet surfaces increase the risk of slips, trips and falls.
- Wind and rain can cause fatigue and impact morale.
- Power lines can move, touch and spark in high winds.
- Excessive rain can lead to erosion and flooding that can compromise the stability of the site and the integrity of structures.
- Heavy machinery may lose traction on muddy and slippery surfaces, leading to accidents or equipment damage.
- Rain can cause electrical malfunctions in machinery and tools.
- Prolonged exposure to moisture can cause rust and corrosion, particularly in machinery made of metal.

General checklist: Storm

- ☐ Conduct start and end-of-day inspections to identify wind damage, wind hazards (such as loose materials, unsecured equipment or vulnerable structures), erosion drainage issues, equipment at risk from wind, rain or flooding, and safety issues.
- ☐ Monitor weather forecasts and be proactive. Be prepared to evacuate the construction site if necessary.
- ☐ Reschedule work at height, such as on roofs or scaffolds.
- ☐ Implement a buddy system because of slip hazards. Control mud.
- ☐ Evaluate the impact of wind events on construction, demolition and scaffolding.
- ☐ Use temporary signage, road closures, windbreaks and fencing to protect the public from blown debris where necessary.
- ☐ Inspect partially demolished and temporary structures after storm weather events for strength and stability.
- ☐ Evaluate the impact of rain/water on construction.
- ☐ Maintain a safe distance from any power lines.
- ☐ Provide additional lighting (use LED lighting and consider placement of lights), enforce wearing of high-visibility clothing, use reflective signage and implement traffic management.
- ☐ Be aware of any nearby water courses and areas of the site that are susceptible to flooding.
- ☐ Be proactive when torrential rain is forecast. Install additional site drainage, temporary flood barriers (water barriers or sandbags) and elevate equipment and materials where necessary.



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Worker checklist: Storm

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Discuss safety and schedule with workers. Be prepared to stop work at thunder or unsafe conditions. Reschedule work to avoid the wettest/windiest parts of the day. ☐ Reschedule work or implement additional safety measures/adapt risk and method statements (RAMS) considering the storm. ☐ Have a site-specific storm preparedness plan that outlines procedures before, during and after a storm. Instruct teams on preparedness and safety plans before the storm season begins. ☐ Have an emergency response plan (ERP) for storm-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 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Avoid moving/lifting large sections of flat materials (eg plasterboard, plywood, roofing sheets or tarpaulins) as they can act as a sail. ☐ Regularly inspect and maintain equipment that may be needed in emergency situations, such as generators, pumps, and communication devices. ☐ Provide indoor spaces where workers can shelter from the storm. ☐ Provide a drying room for wet clothes and boots. ☐ Provide additional lighting in work areas to compensate for reduced visibility. ☐ Use barriers, cones and signage to direct vehicles and pedestrians safely in stormy conditions. ☐ Ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) is appropriate. Provide eye protection/safety glasses. Ensure that hard hats are fastened and cannot be blown off. Provide rainwear appropriate to tasks, eg waterproof high-visibility jackets and trousers and safety wellingtons. ☐ Keep records of wind speeds, wind gusts and precipitation on site and assess the effectiveness of storm safety measures for future reference. |
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Site checklist: Storm

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| ☐ Reschedule work or implement additional safety measures/ adapt risk and method statements (RAMS). | ☐ Ensure all drainage systems are free from obstructions. Provide additional drainage where necessary. |
| ☐ As well as checking forecasts, monitor wind speed, wind gusts and precipitation using an on-site weather station. | ☐ Use silt fences, sediment basins and erosion control mats where needed to minimise soil erosion and siltation. |
| ☐ Assess the site to identify potential risks associated with storms, such as flooding, high winds and lightning. | ☐ Install granular fill, mats or flexible asphalt to create temporary paths and roads to minimise mud. |
| ☐ Effective site planning. Properly grade the construction site and install drainage to minimise water accumulation. | ☐ Implement mud track-out controls (eg gravel pads, vehicle washing and mats/grids) at site entrances/exits. |
| ☐ Use temporary windbreaks and fencing to shield works and equipment from high winds. | ☐ Use sump pumps or other dewatering systems to remove any water from trenches and excavations. |
| ☐ Ensure tools and loose materials, waste, cones and signage are packed away/safely secured. | ☐ Ensure tools, materials and equipment are put away, elevated from the ground and protected from the elements where possible (in covered areas or under waterproof covers). |
| ☐ Ensure scaffolding, cranes and temporary structures (eg site offices and WCs) are anchored to withstand strong winds. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for safety procedures and wind speed limits. Regularly inspect temporary structures to ensure they remain stable. | ☐ Have sufficient waterproof covers/tarpaulins (and ropes to secure them) available to protect open workfaces, excavations, stockpiles, materials and equipment. |
| ☐ 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. | ☐ Protect sensitive materials (like insulation or plasterboard) from moisture by storing in a dry covered area, elevating on pallets/ platforms, wrapping securely in vapour barrier/plastic sheeting. |
| ☐ Lower crane booms and secure loads when not in use. | ☐ Rain can cause electrical malfunctions in machinery and tools. Use waterproof covers. Conduct regular inspections. |
| ☐ Implement automatic wind monitoring systems for cranes to provide real-time warnings and limit operations in high winds. | ☐ Regularly inspect and maintain equipment to ensure functionality and guard against water damage. |
| ☐ If lifting is possible, ensure tag lines are used when hoisting materials with large flat surfaces. | ☐ Store tools in waterproof toolboxes/containers and shield machinery with waterproof covers. Elevate equipment on pallets/platforms where possible. |