

# Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather

A useful set of information you can easily adopt for your organization.

You can find the poster [here](#)



**DON'Ts**

- Don't perform lifting work to high level
- Don't perform work at height that could not be safely performed
- Don't use umbrella which can cause loss of body balance due to strong wind
- Don't stay near windows

... typhoons, rainstorms and thunderstorms, and strong winds, in autumn, and strong winds, in winter, pose adverse weather conditions.

In Ordinance (Chapter 509) and in the Building Ordinance (Chapter 59), set out to ensure the safety and welfare of workers, employees have the right to refuse work, to inform others, and to co-operate with the safety requirements.

During inclement weather, it is important that all risks are eliminated

... by awareness of both the weather and the environment in view to avoiding adverse weather.



... working outdoors, especially in unsheltered structures or indoors may



Threats of

Lightning

**✓ DOS**

- Stop outdoor work and stay inside safe shelter
- Stay away from metal pipes, cable, structure or fences
- Remove metal objects from body
- Stay away from windows
- Use battery-operated radio for listening weather broadcasts
- Follow safety instructions
- Always remain alert on changes of working environment

**✗ DON'Ts**

- Don't stay in water or at exposed areas
- Don't stay at areas higher than the surrounding landscape, such as hilltops
- Don't stay under trees, lamp posts, or any conductive objects
- Don't use plugged-in electrical equipment
- Don't use corded telephone
- Don't wear highly conductive equipment, e.g. headset
- Don't hold rod-like or sharp pointed long objects
- Don't lean against vehicles or walls of structure
- Don't rely on rubber boots and raincoats as protection from lightning strike



Persistent rain

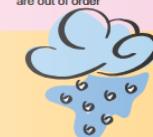
**✓ DOS**

- Be alert to signs of rising water or in-rush of water
- Prepare for evacuation at any moment
- Be familiar with the escape route in case of emergency
- Follow established safety procedures
- Resume work at area only when flooded water has been drained away and the ground conditions improved

**✗ DON'Ts**

- Don't stay near steep slope, inside excavated trench, and don't take shelter inside culverts and drainage pipes to avoid the danger of flooding or collapsed soil
- Don't walk through flooded water without knowing the conditions of the ground
- Don't take shelter in cars that are out of order

6



It is essential, in times of inclement weather, that employers / proprietors and employees should take prompt and necessary action to ensure that reasonably practicable safety measures are in place and be regularly communicated to all concerned.



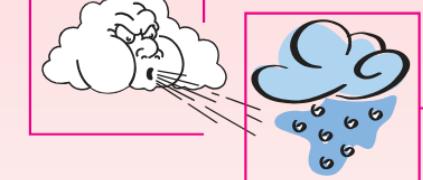
## Occupational Safety and Health Information

If you wish to know more about occupational safety and health information, you may contact Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the Labour Department through - Hotline : 2559 2297  
E-mail : [enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)

Information on the services offered by Occupational Safety and Health Council can be obtained through hotline 2739 9000.

## Other Information

\*Code of Practice in times of Typhoons and Rainstorms\*  
Homepage address: <http://www.labour.gov.hk>  
Telephone Enquiry Service: 2717 1771



## Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather



Occupational Safety and Health Branch  
Labour Department

Occupational Safety & Health Council

6

7

4/2010-1a-L75

## Complaints

If you have any complaints about unsafe workplaces and practices, please call the Labour Department's Occupational Safety and Health complaint hotline on 2542 2172. All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Published by the Labour Department

6

7

4/2010-1a-L75

## Safety Precautions

### Before Commencement of Work

- Conduct risk assessment on working under inclement weather conditions, identify and analyze the hazards.
- Formulate safety plan and emergency plans with documented procedures on communication of weather information, traffic arrangements, evacuation route, safe shelters, first aid facilities and back up services,  Work Arrangement
- Formulate training programme and provide training to employees on hazards, and thus precautions, in inclement weather conditions.
- Appoint an overseer to monitor changes in weather conditions likely to affect the safety of employees.
- Install appropriate warning system, such as anemometer and lightning warning system, with regard to the nature of work to give employees real time warning to take appropriate measures.
- Provide safe shelters or structures that can protect employees from the adverse effects of strong wind, lightning and rainstorm.
- Cranes and other tall lifting appliances should be properly bonded to earth for protection from lightning.
- Provide communication system, radio, and appropriate personal protective equipment for use by employees who have specific duties in times of inclement weather.
- Provide safe means of transport and route for evacuation to safe shelters in the event of adverse weather conditions.

## Upon receiving Warning Signals during Work

- In the event of warnings issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, follow the established safety procedures.
- Suspend immediately all outdoor work in exposed areas where employees are liable to be endangered by the adverse weather conditions such as rainstorm, thunderstorm and typhoon. Employees should take shelter in safe places.
- Inspect indoor workplaces and consider suspension of those work that cannot be performed safely.
- Listen to the latest weather broadcasts issued by the Hong Kong Observatory and prepare for immediate evacuation from the workplaces.



Emergency Arrangement

## After Cancellation of Warning Signals

- Assess the effects of adverse weather conditions on the workplace and prohibit entry into areas that are still dangerous.
- Listen to weather broadcasts and maintain the highest alertness to possible revival of thunderstorms, rainstorms and typhoons shortly after the cancellation or downgrading of the warning signal.
- Resume work only after a thorough examination to ensure the safe working condition of lifting appliances, scaffolds, suspended working platforms, electrical installations, and other plants.

