

SEVERE WEATHER

A severe weather event can be understood as a weather condition that poses a significant risk to workplace safety and can include a variety of hazards. It is important to understand the warning system for severe weather. You should also familiarize yourself with your [Emergency Action Plan \(EAP\)](#), and be aware of designated shelter locations. When an alarm sounds, immediately relocate to the nearest weather shelter. Report to your supervisor to be accounted for and remain in the shelter until instructed otherwise.



HIGH WINDS

OSHA defines high wind as exceeding 40 mph, with wind at 28 mph also considered *potentially* hazardous, for example when working on an aerial lift. Common hazards associated with high wind include:

- Slips, trips, and falls from wind force or reacting to moving objects
- Strains/sprains from wind pushing/pulling materials
- Struck-by incidents from airborne debris
- Falling objects from heights
- Eye injuries from flying particles
- Equipment tip-overs
- Unplanned movement of overhead hazards like branches or power lines.

THUNDERSTORM & LIGHTNING

Follow these steps and continue to monitor appropriate weather services for additional information.

- Count the number of seconds between the lightning flash and the sound of thunder, divide that number by 5. That is the number of miles the storm is from you.
- If you can hear thunder, the storm is close enough that lightning could strike your location at any moment!
- If you hear it - clear it!
- Do not resume outdoor activities until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.

TORNADOES

When a tornado warning sounds, follow these steps:

- Move to the nearest safe shelter.
- Head to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, avoiding windows and large spaces.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.
- Seek shelter under sturdy furniture and hold on.
- Crouch low, face down, and cover your head with your hands.
- Use thick padding like a mattress or blanket for extra protection.
- Stay in a safe location until an all-clear is given via local media or the ND Alert public address system.



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Monitor weather apps, radios, or alerts.
- Know the warning signs (e.g., darkening skies, sudden temperature drops, sirens).
- Be familiar with the nearest exits and safe shelter locations.
- Establish communication plans.
- Tie down or store loose tools & materials that could become projectiles (including tents and canopies).
- Stop outdoor work during lightning, high winds, or tornado warnings.