



TODAY'S SAFETY TALK – TRAINING SESSIONS TO PREVENT INJURIES AND INCIDENTS

TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY

SEVERE WEATHER

Severe Weather and Hazards

When people think about severe weather in Nebraska, tornadoes are often the first that come to mind. Lightning, hail and damaging winds are also examples of severe weather common to the state. All severe weather can be dangerous or damaging with some single events causing high-dollar losses and multiple deaths.

Luckily, we can minimize the threats of severe weather with some planning and following best safety practices. Your health and safety are important to us; we don't want you to get hurt.

Watches and Warnings

Watches and warnings often accompany tornadoes and other severe weather. A watch means that conditions are favorable for severe weather to form. A warning means that severe weather has occurred nearby. A third warning may also include a tornado emergency. This is used only for the most powerful tornadoes approaching heavily populated areas.

Prevention

Prevention efforts are different depending on the specific weather conditions, but all involve taking steps to be aware of the weather and situation. Situational awareness begins when you focus your attention on the weather forecast. Take note of any watches and consider what you would do in case of an emergency.

Also, when under a watch, continue to be aware of changing weather conditions. [*Instructor Prompt: Discuss usage of weather radios or allowable phone applications or weather alerts specific to your employees. Remind them to have them available and in working order when under a severe weather watch or warning.*]

In any warning situation, seek shelter immediately. Remember the following best practices if you encounter severe weather events when you are either indoors or outside.

Indoors

LIGHTNING

- If you hear thunder, it is best to stay indoors and avoid using corded electrical equipment or leaning against metal support structures for a facility.

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HIGH WINDS, HAIL

- Take shelter inside, in a sturdy building away from windows.
- Avoid putting yourself at risk by going outside to protect property from hail.

Outside

TORNADOES

- It is not safe to be outside during a tornado. If possible, move to a sturdy structure and into an interior room either below ground or on the lowest level away from windows.
- If trapped outdoors away from buildings, make a quick assessment to ensure you are not sheltering under power lines or other hazardous conditions. Then find the lowest lying area nearby and lay flat facedown with your hands over your head. You may also take shelter in your car and hide below the steering wheel. Neither of these situations is ideal and should only be used as a last resort.
- Avoid sheltering under overpasses or bridges. These places put people at greater risk for injuries.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in a car; traffic jams or downed trees or power lines can stop a car and leave no other methods of escape.

LIGHTNING

- If outdoors, move to interior shelter as quickly as possible.
- Steel-shelled vehicles can offer protection but avoid making contact with the steel frame. Fiberglass, plastic or cloth tops do not offer protection against lightning.
- Avoid taking shelter under trees or other tall objects.

HIGH WINDS, HAIL

- When possible move inside to a room away from windows. Use an object to protect your head from hail until you get indoors.
- If it is not possible to seek shelter indoors, find a car or other object to offer some overhead protection.
- Trees or other objects can blow over in strong winds. Fixed sturdy structures or objects are the best protection.
- When driving, depending on the severity of the storm, pull over safely and wait for the storm to pass. Be wary of nearby trees, telephone poles or other items that may fall.

TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY SIGN-IN SHEET

COUNTY/AGENCY: _____

DATE OF TRAINING: _____ PRESENTER: _____

TOPIC(S): _____

Print Name

Signature

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