



PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

Storm Warnings on Construction Sites

May times without warning, heavy rain, thunderstorms, strong winds or even tornadoes can pop out of the sky. Staying informed, being prepared and knowing what to do before the onset of a storm is your best defense and makes your jobsite as safe and as weatherproof as possible.

Monitor the weather at all times on the jobsite. Weather radios, portable weather stations and monitors can be set up in a central location such as the superintendent's trailer. You can also stay informed on the weather via the internet at weatherbug.com, NOAA.gov or weather.com. Be prepared if you see/hear any of the following weather alerts:

Tornado Watch - Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms producing tornadoes in and close to the watch area. (also automatically indicates a Severe Thunderstorm Watch)

Tornado Warning -Tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by storm spotters. The warning will include where the tornado is and what towns will be in its path. (also automatically indicates a Severe Thunderstorm Warning)

Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Watches are usually in effect for several hours, with 6 hours being the most common.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning - Issued when a thunderstorm produces hail 1 inch or larger in diameter and/or winds which equal or exceed 58 mph. Severe thunderstorms can result in the loss of life and/or property. Information in this warning includes: where the storm is, what towns will be affected and the primary threat associated with the storm. Tornadoes can also and do develop in severe thunderstorms without the issuance of a tornado warning.

Severe Weather Statement - Issued when the forecaster wants to follow up a warning with important information on the progress of severe weather elements.

Conduct evacuation drills. Workers should know whether to take shelter in place, move to a central location for a head count, or leave the site completely depending on the signal used. Temporary wireless alarms around the jobsite can be installed to alert workers to impending severe weather. Workers who have practiced the drill will know where to go and what to do. Weather emergency instructions should be a part of your site-specific orientation.

Ensure that all objects capable of blowing off a roof or out of a storage area are properly secured. Secure loose building materials, scaffolding, and fencing that could be picked up or torn loose by strong winds and thrown onto surrounding streets, structures vehicles or bystanders. Do not underestimate the power of wind.

Prevent environmental hazards. Review your storage policies and containment requirements. An unsecured fuel container can overturn or be punctured creating a major environmental event if you have failed to address the hazard.

Changing weather conditions can affect your daily work tasks. Make sure you have a game plan to prevent property damage and personal injury.



For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7