

Working In Severe Weather Conditions



All Eyes On Safety During The Storms

The UK is notoriously known for adverse weather and 2022 thus far has kept to its reputation.

As storm Dudley moves on, storm Eunice approaches with winds of up to 100mph predicted for the end of February.

Adverse weather poses serious health & safety risks to workers and members of the public in particular during storms, high winds and snow.



Our Health & Safety Advice For Adverse Weather

We want you to take extra precautions when attempting to go about your working day. Although you may not be able to identify every hazard that it poses we can clear up areas to pay attention too:

Avoid Work At Heights

Take account of weather conditions that could compromise worker safety; avoid Working At Heights during adverse weather. It is difficult enough to attempt work at height on a clear day, and winds above 23mph will pose balance issues.

Falling Debris & Loose Materials

Falling debris and flying debris are one of the most common to look out for. Suspend work in areas which pose this threat, such as temporary structures, scaffolding or part built structures. Remove or secure any loose materials before they become a hazard. Ensure all scaffolding is tied off effectively before or during a storm and is inspected promptly after by a competent person prior to use again.

Fallen Trees

Storm Dudley has already wreaked havoc across the country with fallen trees blocking roads and cutting power line. And further to this, we have already seen the fatal risks they pose following a [prosecution](#) early this year resulting in a £300k. Take extreme care when dealing with the fallen or damaged trees.

Cranes

Generally speaking manufacturers will advise the max wind speeds in which the machinery can be used (usually 30mph). High winds can cause the load to swing during a lift which is why cranes pose such a significant risks to both the user and those around them. During a storm it is advised that cranes are stored in an out of service area. Following a storm much like scaffolding ensure the machinery is inspected by a competent person.

Farming

Agricultural businesses will feel the force of adverse weather more than most because of their rural occupancy. All farmers need to ensure their farm buildings are secured and that live stock is sheltered away and out of any known dangers. Ensure any machinery is moved in or well away from buildings and structures.

Fragile Roofing

Rooftops can be unstable at the best of times and adverse weather throws up all kinds of risks. From loose tiles to trip and slip hazards. As this is a work at height task we would advise against moving forward with the job until the weather changes. Before work commences again, inspect the roofing as asbestos, PVC lights may have become damaged posing further risks of falling through.

Travelling

Transport is always hard hit when storms approach. Storm Dudley has already brought winds of 81mph. With an amber warning out for the incoming Storm Eunice many have been advised "please do not travel on Friday 18 February".