

Hazard Alert Notice



HAZARD ALERT	
Hazard Alert No	Hazard Alert: 03
Hazard Alert Title	Thunderstorms
Date Issued	31 October 2016
Recipients	LAA Contractors under Contract No. 1500755, located throughout NSW
Business Unit	Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce (LFAIT)
Division	NSW Fair Trading
Brief Description of Hazard Alert	<p>Bureau of Meteorology data shows that the incidence of thunderstorms in NSW is highest during the months of November to February/March.</p>
Details	<p>Hazards include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lightning• Hailstones• Wind gusts• Flash flooding• Tornadoes <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced visibility when driving leading to increased potential for collision with other vehicles/objects/persons• Being hit by hailstones causing damage to person or property• Being hit by objects including tree branches/limbs/debris• Contact with electricity due to fallen power lines• Electrocution due to lightning strike. Risk increased in event LAA carrying metal objects such as ladders from vehicle to premises.• Risk to personal safety due to vehicle or person caught in flash flood• Electrocution due to contact with an object affected by a lightning strike such as phone lines, electrical outlets, plumbing pipes

For more information contact Employee Safety and Wellbeing at Denis.Bellerose@finance.nsw.gov.au



Risk Management	<p>LAAs are advised to suspend all work during extreme weather events including thunderstorms, high winds and flash flooding.</p> <p>Whilst this list is not exhaustive additional controls may also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checking weather forecasts daily and where possible aim to be somewhere safe or complete work before a storm is forecast• Having access to effective forms of communication should you need to call for assistance• If driving in low visibility slowing down, driving with your lights on, increasing the distance between yourself and the vehicle in front and driving cautiously to avoid flooded sides of roads• During intense rain consider pulling your vehicle to side of the road with head lights and hazard lights activated until the worst of the storm has passed. Not parking under trees, power lines or other tall objects. Not touching metal parts of the vehicle• Not driving on roads where flooding is evident. Watching for road washouts. Avoiding dips and underpasses• Not attempting to cross flooded roads or causeways• Seeking shelter in a substantial building or a hard topped vehicle and close doors and windows. Not sheltering in open buildings such as car ports, verandas, sheds• Staying away from trees, electrical poles and other tall objects such as scaffold, ladders and other materials likely to conduct electricity such as metal tools and equipment, water and metal plumbing pipes• Wearing appropriate clothing including rubber soled shoes• Staying away from glass windows/doors where hailstones are present• In the event of a tornado finding a substantial solid structure to shelter in e.g. shopping centre• In flood conditions not attempting to rescue other drivers - contacting emergency services by dialling '000' and waiting for emergency personnel		
Resources and Further Information	<p>Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology: Severe Thunderstorm Safety Tips</p> <p>WorkCover Queensland: Electrical safety during storms</p> <p>NSW Ambulance: Paramedics call for common sense during wild weather</p> <p>State of Illinois Emergency Management Agency: Lightning Safety Awareness</p> <p>Please continue to report all hazards, near misses and incidents as soon as they occur to the Taskforce by email to:</p> <p>Steven.Nikolovski@finance.nsw.gov.au or Denis.Bellerose@finance.nsw.gov.au</p>		
Contact Person	Denis Bellerose WHS Advisor, LFAIT	Phone Number	02 9895 0986

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