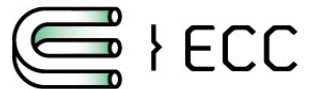


# ECC Monthly Safety Tip

May 2026

**Storm Preparedness in the Workplace:  
Be Ready Before the Storm!**



Team Members:

**Shane Starks – Chemical Project Designer – IMEG**



# Why Severe Weather Preparedness Matters?

In 2024, the NCEI reported that 27 severe weather and climate disasters occurred that year. This resulted in **\$1 billion in damages** and **568 direct or indirect fatalities**.

## Severe Weather Can Develop Quickly

- Thunderstorms
- Hail
- Tornadoes
- High winds
- Flooding
- Lightning
- Storm Surges

### Operation Risks:

- ⚡ Loss of Power
- ⚡ Equipment Damage
- ⚡ Delayed Emergency Response

### Personnel Risks:

- ⚡ Slips and Falls
- ⚡ Vehicle Accidents
- ⚡ Drowning
- ⚡ Flying Debris



# Warning Signs & Alerts

*Industrial sites must recognize and act on severe weather alerts to protect personnel, assets, and operations.*

## Weather Alerts: Understand the Distinction




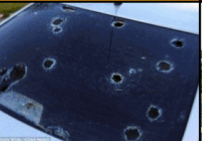


### ⚠ Watch

- Conditions are favorable for severe weather

### ● Warning

- Severe weather is occurring or imminent.

## Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					

\* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.



National Weather Service

[www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)



### Common Warning Signs

- Dark green or rotating clouds
- Sudden temperature drop
- Large hail
- Sirens or emergency alerts

### Employee Responsibilities

- Monitor alerts
- Report hazards at once
- Shut down sensitive electrical systems
- Follow site emergency protocol

# What To Do During Severe Weather

*Safety First - Every Shift, Every Storm.*

## If Indoors

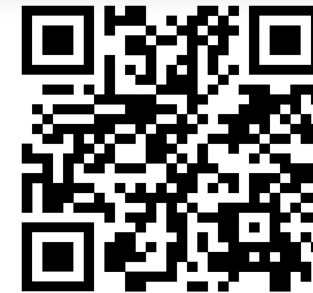
- 🏠 Move to designated shelter area
- 🏠 Stay away from windows and doors
- 🏠 Shut down non-essential machinery
- 🏠 Remain calm

## If Outdoors

- 📍 Stop work immediately
- 📍 Seek shelter in a sturdy building
- 📍 Avoid metal objects and open areas

## Lightning Safety

- ⚡ “When thunder roars, go indoors.”
- ⚡ Disconnect portable generators and electrical tools.
- ⚡ Stay sheltered for 30 minutes after last thunder.



National Weather Service:  
Scan for live weather alerts and safety updates

# Emergency Preparedness Reminders

*Preparedness is everyone's responsibility - review your site plan quarterly.*

## Employee Actions:

- 👤 Know evacuation/shelter locations
- 👤 Keep emergency contacts updated
- 👤 Secure loose outdoor materials
- 👤 Charge phones/radios
- 👤 Review shelter routes during quarterly safety meetings

## Facility Actions:

- 🔧 Test backup generators monthly
- 🔧 Backup power systems
- 🔧 First aid kits stocked
- 🔧 Communication plans tested
- 🔧 Verify emergency lighting battery life

## Final Safety Reminder:

**Prepared employees respond faster, safer, and help minimize downtime.**

