

	<h1>INCLEMENT WEATHER</h1>	Doc No:	5101 - 5008
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OPR:	Approval:	DEPARTMENT: RISK MANAGEMENT	
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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Okaloosa County employees the necessary information and guidance for work sites that are exposed to inclement weather and lightning.

## **2.0 GENERAL**

- 2.1 Precautions should be taken to prevent employees who are exposed to the elements, such lightning or bad weather on their job sites. Director, managers, and supervisors should recognize inclement weather as an occupational hazard. Supervisors and employees should take weather alerts seriously.
- 2.2 County employees should understand the risks of lightning and inclement weather and the characteristics and precautions associated with weather patterns to minimize workplace hazards.

## **3.0 STORMS & LIGHTNING**

- 3.1 Lightning is unpredictable and can strike 10 to 12 miles from a thunderstorm. If signs of approaching thunderstorms occur, employees should not begin any task they cannot quickly stop. Proper planning and safe practices can increase weather safety when working outdoors.
- 3.2 Avoid open areas, such as fields. Never lie flat on the ground, seek shelter in dense areas of smaller trees that are surrounded by larger trees, or retreat to low-lying areas (e.g., valleys, ditches) when hardened shelter isn't nearby. Beware of flooding in ditches or low-lying areas.
- 3.3 Avoid water; immediately get out of and away from pools of water. Water does not attract lightning, but it is an excellent conductor of electricity.

## **4.0 SHELTER**

- 4.1 Avoid wiring, plumbing, and fencing. Lightning can travel long distances through metal, which is an excellent conductor of electricity. Stay away from all metal objects, equipment, and surfaces that can conduct electricity.
- 4.2 Do not shelter in sheds, pavilions, tents, or covered porches as they do not provide adequate protection from lightning. Seek fully-enclosed, substantial buildings with wiring and plumbing. A building is a safe shelter as long as you are not in contact with anything that can conduct electricity (e.g., electrical equipment or cords, plumbing fixtures, corded phones). Do not lean against concrete walls or floors (which may have metal bars inside). Stay away from doors and windows.

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- 4.3 Supervisors should check the weather prior to starting any outdoor work and have a plan for work stoppage and seeking shelter.
- 4.4 If safe building structures are not available/accessible, employees should seek shelter in their work vehicles with rolled up windows. Remain in the shelter for at least 30 minutes after hearing the last sound of thunder.

**5.0 TRAINING**

- 5.1 Supervisors shall ensure that all employees who may be exposed to inclement weather & potential lightning are trained on the dangers, know when to stop work as well as where and when to seek shelter.

**6.0 RECORD KEEPING**

- 6.1 Training records shall be maintained at the department in which the employee is working and a copy of the training certificate will be sent to Human Resources for their permanent file.

**7.0 ABBREVIATIONS**

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION

**8.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY**

DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
19 Jun 2023	Initial	New Document
	Revision 1	