TOOLBOX TALKS

LIGHTNING STRIKES

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

A single stroke of lightning can carry 125,000,000 volts (125,000 kilovolts) of electricity. More then 1000 people are injured by lightning in the United States each year. Here are some safety tips when you see lightning:

SEEK SHELTER

- For every 5 seconds you count, lightning is one mile away
- The safest location during lightning activity is in an enclosed building
- If outside, seek shelter in a ditch, cave or canyon
- If you are in a wooded area seek shelter in an area of shorter trees and crouch down away from the tree trunks
- Stay off and away from anything tall (i.e., rooftops, scaffolding, ladders, utility poles, etc.)
- Never use metal objects outside, such as tools, golf clubs, etc.

STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE

- If you are traveling and no external shelters are present, do not exit your vehicle
- The second safest location to be during lightning activity is in a fully enclosed hard topped car, truck, tractor, etc.
- Make sure all doors are closed and roll up all the windows
- Do not touch any metal parts of your vehicle
- Be sure to stop and park the vehicle (A lightning flash that hits your vehicle may startle you and cause temporary blindness resulting in an accident.)
- Refrain from using the radio and cell phone during a lightning storm

LIGHTNING STRIKES

- If you feel your skin tingling or your hair stands on end, a lightning strike may be about to happen, so take cover immediately
- Get as low to the ground as possible, but DO NOT LAY DOWN
- Crouch down on the balls of your feet with your feet together, hands over your head, and head down
- If someone is struck by lightning start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) immediately
- There is no danger to anyone helping a person who has been struck; no electrical charge remains

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Caterpillar Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state or federal statutes or regulations.

There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

© 2021 Caterpillar. All Rights Reserved. CAT, CATERPILLAR, LET'S DO THE WORK, their respective logos, "Caterpillar Corporate Yellow", the "Power Edge" and Cat "Modern Hex" trade dress as well as corporate and product identity used herein, are trademarks of Caterpillar and may not be used without permission.