

CUHK Precaution Notice to Adverse Weather Conditions

A. Introduction

Under adverse weather conditions, natural hazards such as strong wind, lightning and persistent rain can cause injuries and/or property damage. It creates a danger to students/staff working outdoors, especially in exposed areas; sometimes students/staff working indoors may also be affected.

This notice aims to enhance general safety awareness of students and staff in CUHK, with a view to avoid accidents at workplaces before, in times of and, after inclement weather.

Department/Unit requires to carry out work under inclement weather conditions should provide their own workplace-specific safety plan and instruction whenever necessary.

The hazards are described as follow:

Sources of hazards	Strong Wind	Lightning	Persistent Rain
Inclement Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Typhoons - Strong monsoon winds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thunderstorms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Typhoons - Thunderstorms - Rainstorms (e.g. Red or Black Rainstorm signals)
Possible consequences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collapse of temporary structures or plants, causing injury of people nearby and damage to property 2. Loss of balance resulting in falls 3. Hit by flying or falling objects 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electric shock to people directly or through conductive objects 2. Fire 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electric shock due to leakage of electric current from wet electrical equipment or appliances 2. Slipping arising from wet floor or slippery surface 3. Slipping of tools, equipment, or articles from hands 4. Flooding leading to drowning and damage to plants or structures 5. Landslips as a result of persistent heavy rainfall 6. Collapse of roads

B. Safety precautions before issue of inclement weather warning signals (e.g. Pre-inspection)

1. Lock all windows and doors. Use typhoon bolt to tighten up aluminum framed windows.
2. Relocate or secure objects such as outdoor booths, canvas awing and plants etc. on balconies, rooftops / near windows to prevent them from falling and causing accident.
3. Gutters and drains should be cleared of obstructions.
4. Park your car in a safe place.
5. Consider release of staff whenever it is necessary¹

C. Safety precautions when receiving inclement weather warning signals

1. For students/staff that are liable to be endangered by the adverse weather conditions, all outdoor work should be suspended immediately. All students/staff should take shelter and stay in safe places.
2. Inspect indoor workplaces and consider suspension of work that cannot be performed safely.
3. Avoid working offshores or near water.
4. Take heed of the latest weather broadcasts by the Hong Kong Observatory.

¹ In accordance to Staff Handbook "General Arrangements for Typhoons and Black Rainstorm Warning Signal"

D. Safety precautions after cancellation of warning signals

1. Assess the effects of inclement weather on the workplace and cordon off areas that are in dangerous condition. Resume work only after the workplaces are confirmed safe and equipment/tools are properly functioned.
2. Take heed of the latest weather broadcasts and stay alert to the revival of thunderstorms, rainstorms and typhoons to prevent working under adverse weather condition.

E. Dos and Don'ts of during adverse weather conditions

Threats of	DOs	DON'Ts
Strong Wind	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stop work at a place with the risk of falling objects/person2. Stay in safe place/shelters to avoid exposure to strong winds. Remove or secure loose materials/plants and scaffolds3. Use suitable personal protective equipment such as safety helmets4. Protect window glasses from breakage5. Use safe means of transport and route for evacuation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Don't perform lifting work to high level2. Don't perform work at height that could not be safely performed3. Don't use umbrella which can cause loss of balance due to strong wind4. Don't stay near window
Lightning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stop outdoor work and stay inside a safe place or shelter2. Stay away from metal pipes, cables, structure or fences3. Remove metal objects from body4. Stay away from window5. Follow safety instruction6. Always remain alerts on the change of working environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Don't stay in water or at exposed areas2. Don't stay at areas higher than the surrounding landscape, such as hilltops3. Don't stay under trees, lamp posts, or any conductive objects4. Don't use plugged-in electrical equipment5. Don't hold highly conductive equipment and rod-like or sharp pointed long objects6. Don't lean against vehicles or walls of structure
Persistent Rain	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be alert to signs of rising water or in-rush of water2. Prepare for evacuation at any moment3. Be familiar with the escape route in case of emergency4. Follow established safety procedures5. Resume work at area only when flooded water has been drained away and the ground conditions improved	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Don't stay near steep slope, inside excavated trench, and don't take shelter inside culverts and drainage pipes to avoid the danger of flooding or collapsed soil2. Don't walk through flooded water without knowing conditions of the ground3. Don't take shelter in cars that are out of order.4. Don't carry out any electric-arc welding in outdoor area.