

Policy



Severe Weather Policy

June 2026

Policy Statement

At The IPS Group, we recognize the increasing frequency and severity of hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather conditions. These adverse conditions present significant risks not only to the public but also to our clients, employees, and the integrity of ongoing operations in the petrochemical, construction, oil and gas, and shipbuilding industries.

As a safety-first organization, The IPS Group is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of every worker under our oversight. We are dedicated to proactive hazard identification, emergency preparedness, and compliance with OSHA regulations to maintain a safe and healthy workplace, especially under extreme weather conditions.

Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for addressing hazards related to severe weather events, including high winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, lightning, and other storm-related dangers. The goal is to ensure safe working conditions, proper training, and informed decision-making when adverse weather affects job sites.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees, subcontractors, and partner organizations working on or near IPS Group-managed or supported sites, particularly those involved in:

- Construction
- Maintenance and Turnarounds
- Confined Space and Rescue Operations
- Catalyst Handling
- Mechanical Services
- Safety Training and Compliance Audits

Hazards Associated with Severe Weather

Adverse weather conditions can lead to serious health and safety hazards including, but not limited to:

- Electrocution and Lightning Strikes
- Slips, Trips, and Falls
- Loss of Balance and Falling from Heights
- Drowning or Entrapment Due to Floods
- Falling Objects
- Cold Stress
- Inaccessibility to Safe Egress Points
- Equipment Malfunctions Due to Wet or Low-Visibility Conditions

High-Risk Work Conditions

The following tasks and areas are especially vulnerable during storms and high winds:

1. Working on Scaffolds

Work must be suspended during high winds and wet conditions unless a competent person deems it safe and workers are using personal fall arrest systems or protected by windscreens, as per OSHA scaffolding standards.

2. Working at Heights

All elevated work should be postponed during storms or high winds. Lightning, wind gusts, and rain significantly increase fall risk.

3. Working in Open Spaces

Workers must be protected from exposure to falling objects, windborne debris, and electrocution when near metal structures or powerlines.

4. Working with Electrical Equipment

Electrical work must cease during rain or storms. Workers should use only weather-rated tools and wear non-conductive PPE including rubber gloves and rubber-soled shoes.

5. Operating Heavy Equipment and Machinery

Poor visibility and slick surfaces increase risk during inclement weather. Suspend equipment use as needed until conditions improve.

6. Working in Excavations and Trenches

Excavations must be inspected for flooding, erosion, and soil instability. Evacuate trenches during heavy rainfall or when flooding is imminent.

7. Working in Confined Spaces

Entry points may become slick or flooded. Risk assessments must include atmospheric monitoring and hazard identification, especially around power sources or sewer lines.

Emergency Action Plan

Per **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.38**, The IPS Group requires each job site to maintain a written Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that includes severe weather response procedures. For teams with 10 or fewer employees, a verbal plan is acceptable, but must still meet OSHA standards.

Our EAPs include:

- Evacuation routes and muster points
- Site-specific weather monitoring procedures
- Emergency communication protocols
- Shelter-in-place guidelines where necessary

Protective Measures and Controls

IPS Group utilizes the **Hierarchy of Controls** to guide severe weather safety protocols:

Elimination: Temporary cessation of outdoor work during unsafe weather

Engineering Controls: Protective shelters, wind barriers, secured scaffolding

Administrative Controls: Weather monitoring, work schedule adjustments, emergency drills

PPE: Rain gear, non-slip footwear, reflective outerwear, fall protection systems

Worker Training and Awareness

We provide OSHA-compliant safety training that includes:

- Hazard recognition and weather pattern awareness
- Proper use of weather-rated tools and PPE
- Confined space entry during wet weather
- Emergency response and first aid protocols
- Cold stress recognition and treatment

Best Practices for Severe Weather Preparedness

- Monitor weather forecasts daily
- Secure or store all loose objects and equipment
- Reassess high-risk work areas at the start of each shift
- Educate workers to recognize signs of changing weather (e.g., darkening skies, distant thunder, increasing wind speeds)
- Use brightly colored and reflective safety gear
- Conduct toolbox talks on weather hazards during relevant shifts
- Suspend scaffold, height, electrical, and excavation work during extreme conditions
- Ensure all trenches are shored and water drainage is adequate
- Provide safe shelters on-site where possible

Policy Review and Compliance

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect OSHA regulations, industry standards, and evolving climate risks. Supervisors and site safety officers are responsible for enforcing this policy on all active sites.

Conclusion

The IPS Group remains steadfast in its mission to be the leading provider of safety, rescue, and emergency support services within high-risk industrial environments. Protecting our workers from adverse weather is not only a regulatory requirement — it is a core value.

Mike Guidry
Vice President / CEO