



SAFETY ALERT

Lightning safety

A recent incident in the agricultural sector resulted in the death of a worker and injury to two others. The workers were in the vicinity of a tree which was struck by lightning.

Given that most parts of the country are into the storm or wet seasons, this a timely reminder to DRA members and supervisors when deployed in the field that several precautions should be in place including:

Do

- Familiarise the team with the SWMS Operations during weather extremes
- Monitor forecasts and conditions
- Have a plan which is communicated to all
- Alert supervisors and fellow members when lightning or thunder is detected
- Identify locations to safely shelter within close proximity of the worksite. Safe shelters include:
 - Fully enclosed large permanent structures or substantial buildings; or
 - Enclosed 'hard-top' (metal-bodied) vehicles.
- Check in with all your workers after the thunderstorm has passed.

Caution

- Never seek shelter in temporary structures, sheds, buildings with unearthed metal roofs, or under trees.
- Avoid bodies of water and metal objects such as fencing that may conduct electricity.
- When sheltering (including inside a vehicle), avoid contact with the external surfaces, metal objects such as pipes, wiring, metal parts of the vehicle, and avoid using plugged in electrical equipment.
- Workers who are caught away from shelter should:
 - Avoid being on the highest point in an open area or near tall objects, but do not lie flat on the ground.
 - Crouch (alone) with your feet together, preferably in a ditch or hollow so you are not the highest object.
 - Remove all metal objects from your body.

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