

SAFETY ALERT

SECURING WORKSITES AGAINST STORM ACTIVITY

The purpose of this Alert is to remind Top End businesses to secure their worksites with the increase in storm activity and the start of the cyclone season.

Background

NT WorkSafe Inspectors investigated a number of near misses last week after a series of storm related incidents.

A number of scaffolding planks at a high rise construction site became loose and were blown into the building being constructed.

Over 50 meters of temporary fencing adjacent to a car park collapsed.

An outdoor furniture table became airborne, with the glass table top smashing into a second floor office window narrowly avoiding injuring a worker nearby.

Action required

All Top End businesses should take immediate measures to clean up their worksite and secure any loose items and material which may become airborne during strong winds.

The cyclone season began on 1 November and extends through to 30 April. Businesses should review their emergency plans and should ensure all staff are aware of what action to take in the event of a severe storm or cyclone.

Emergency plans should be clearly written and simple to understand. Where relevant, the emergency plans should address but not limited to:

- Hazards in the workplace;
- Responsibility of staff;

- Briefings for staff;
- Securing materials and equipment on worksites;
- Safe storage of material unable to be secured;
- Protection, dismantling and securing plant;
- Security of services (e.g. water, gas main);
- Monitoring weather conditions; and
- Evacuation procedures.

Further information

Codes of Practice

- Managing the Work Environment and Facilities.

NT Emergency Services

<http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Emergency-Service/Public-safety-advice.aspx>

Bureau of Meteorology

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nt/warnings/>

Contact Details

Call us on: 1800 019 115

Email us at: ntworksafe@nt.gov.au

For more information on workplace health and safety, go to NT WorkSafe's website: www.worksafe.nt.gov.au

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