

Theme of the Month September 2018 – Wet Weather

Your Health and Safety

Our Environment

Quality Requirements

This month's theme looks at Wet Weather. As we head into September we begin to leave behind summer and embrace the wet, cool month's forecast ahead. Using the tips below you can proactively prepare for the predicted rainfall, minimising environmental and safety issues whilst reducing delays to work. Additionally, at risk sites prone to flooding should sign up to the EA Flood Warnings website and consider if a site flood plan is required.

Pollution

An increase in water on site increases the likelihood of a pollution incident occurring (e.g. Silt). If any incidents or issues occur, report to Site Management and contact an Env Advisor ASAP. Photograph the incident where possible / safe.

Consider installing silt fencing or other measures to protect watercourse.

Shelter

Reduce operatives' exposure to adverse weather by setting up temporary shelters etc.

PPE

Wear waterproof clothing, including slip-resistant safety boots.

Concrete

Avoid rainwater gathering on the surface of wet concrete. Excess water on wet concrete should be treated and disposed of as concrete washout.

Where the programme allows, delay concrete pours in extreme wet weather.

Before placing the concrete ensure any rainwater at the bottom of the form has been removed. Limit the size of the intended slab pour.

Temporary Works

If a sudden downpour occurs, stop work in trenches, excavations or on any temporary works until a competent person deems it safe.

Monitoring

Check the weather forecast. Carry out regular monitoring (written and photographic) to evidence compliance with any permits / conditions in place.

Drip Trays

Where drip trays beneath fuel / chemical storage fill with rainwater, this must be classed as hazardous waste and removed from site under a Hazardous Waste Consignment Note.

Storage

Review location of storage areas. Are they affected by surface water run-off routes or increased levels in watercourses.

Shortcuts

Avoid taking shortcuts over grass / dirt which may become slippery.

Dewatering

Heavy rain increases the need for dewatering – ensure this is adequately planned and the necessary permits and paperwork are in place
(for further information on permit requirements see: EVPD05 Environmental Compliance (Permits, Licences and Consents)).

Pre-Use Checks

Where materials are exposed to long / heavy periods of rain, examine their suitability prior to use. Quarantine items that are damaged or unfit for use.

Heaters

Never cover heaters or leave them unattended.

Mats

Install anti-slip mats near building entrances.

Drying Room

Ensure that there is a suitable area to dry clothes.

Leaves

Sweep up wet and decaying leaves away from footpaths regularly to avoid slip hazards.