

CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lightning

Five people died from lightning strikes in Australia last year with 11 killed in the past five years.

With or without rain, if thunder can be heard, personnel are within immediate striking range of lightning.

The rule of thumb is that every 3 seconds of delay between a flash to thunder, equates to a distance of 1 kilometre, so when there is a 30 second flash-to-thunder time interval, the lightning activity is approximately 10 km away.

Supervision in consultation with the safety committee shall administer the following process.

- Monitor lightning on the BOM website Perth. When lightning is within 10 km follow steps 1 – 3. If the website is unavailable follow steps 1 – 6 using the 3 second rule of thumb. <http://www.bom.gov.au/>
- When a thunderstorm approaches and the interval between lightning and thunder is less than 30 seconds the following is to occur.
 1. Cranage: Cease lifting as soon as possible, retract and lower boom and make safe, operators to vacate cab and relocate to crib rooms.
 2. Plant and equipment should be shut down and masts / booms / arms lowered where practicable especially EWP's, excavator's etc. operators to vacate cab and relocate to crib rooms.
 3. Supervision to instruct persons in exposed outdoor locations, working at heights, and operating elevated equipment to relocate to crib rooms.
 4. When the interval between lightning and thunder is more than 30 seconds continue to monitor the situation until the interval between lightning and thunder is more than 30 seconds apart for at least half an hour.
 5. After the interval between lightning and thunder is more than 30 seconds apart for at least half an hour supervision in consultation with the safety committee will decide when and where it is safe to return to work.
 6. Supervision can then instruct personnel to return to work.



REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM

Stand up. Speak out. Come home.