



Weekly Safety Tip

Tornado Safety



Tornado Safety



Tornado Preparedness and Response

In the aftermath of a tornado, workers may be involved in a variety of response and recovery operations.

Response/Recovery

The following are general guidelines that may be applicable to those involved in assessing and/or cleaning up the damage from a tornado. Do keep in mind that some operations, such as utility restoration, cleaning up spills of hazardous materials, and search and rescue, should only be conducted by those who have the proper training, equipment and experience.

Potential Hazards

Response and recovery work in tornado-impacted areas presents safety and health hazards that should be properly identified, evaluated, and controlled in a systematic manner to reduce or eliminate occupational safety and health risks to response and recovery workers.

Some of the specific hazards associated with working in the aftermath of tornadoes include:

- Hazardous driving conditions due to slippery and/or blocked roadways
- Slips and falls due to slippery walkways
- Falling and flying objects such as tree limbs and utility poles
- Sharp objects including nails and broken glass
- Electrical hazards from downed power lines or downed objects in contact with power lines
- Falls from heights
- Burns from fires caused by energized line contact or equipment failure
- Exhaustion from working extended shifts
- Heat and Dehydration.

General Precautions

- Continue to monitor your local radio or television stations for emergency information and the potential of additional storms. Be aware of possible structural, electrical, or gas-leak hazards.
- If such hazards are identified, report them to the proper local authorities and/or utility.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed power lines.
- Wear proper clothing when walking on or near debris, including boots and gloves.
- Be careful around sharp objects, including nails and broken glass.
- Use the proper safety precautions when operating generators, chainsaws, or other power tools.
- Take steps to prevent heat illnesses and dehydration.

Source Attribution: based on Federal OSHA online guidance

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Weekly Safety Share



Head Protection Study Findings

J. J. Keller & Associates and the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) recently completed a comprehensive study on the top challenges in managing PPE procurement and its proper usage.

Study results titled "**2025 PPE Pain Points Study: Top Trends and Challenges**," were released on March 12, 2025.



Summary of Key Findings

- **PPE Management Is Generally Strong.** Of those responding to the survey, 95% completely or somewhat have the time and resources needed to properly assess PPE needs, and 70% talk with their employees regularly about PPE.
- **Getting Employees to Always Wear PPE Continues to Be a Challenge.** More than 75% of respondents reported that at least some of the time, they have difficulty getting employees to wear PPE.
- **Durability is the Number One Criteria When Purchasing PPE.** More than 33% prioritized durability, followed by comfort, emphasizing the need for PPE that workers can and will consistently wear.
- **Challenges Occur in Finding PPE in Larger and Smaller Sizes.** While 75% of respondents have not experienced problems buying PPE in the sizes they need, those who have had issues find difficulty locating larger and smaller sizes.
- **Weather Is a Consideration, but There's More Opportunity Here.** While 84% of respondents factor weather conditions into PPE purchases, there is a growing need for more education on selecting PPE optimized for extreme temperatures.
- **Women's Sizing Are Increasingly Considered.** More companies are prioritizing PPE designed for women, though nearly one in three of the respondents still face challenges in finding properly fitting options.
- **Training Is a Challenge.** Nearly 50% of respondents struggle with training employees on critical PPE usage aspects, including when PPE is necessary, how to properly wear it, and its limitations.

You can [download the study report](#) on the J. J. Keller [website](#), and members of ISEA can download the study report on the association's [website](#).

J. J. Keller and ISEA experts will be hosting a **free webcast** titled "**2025 PPE Pain Points Study: Key Insights, challenges, and solutions**," examining the greatest pain points and practical ways to address them, on **April 17, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. central time. The public may [register here](#).

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