

# TOOLBOX TALKS

The Upside of Safety

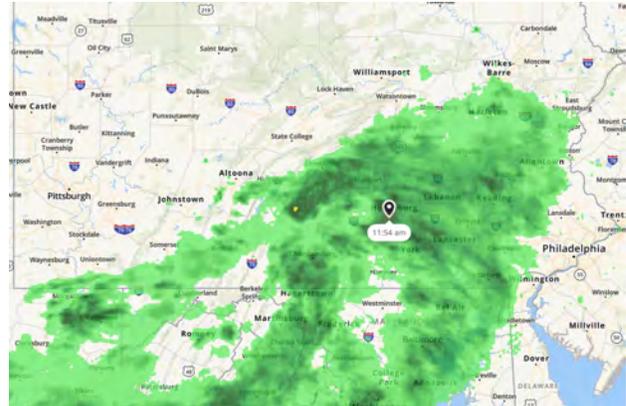


## Thunderstorms

We are now entering the time of the year when thunderstorms can pose a severe hazard to many outdoor workers such as roofers and construction workers. Every year people are killed or seriously injured by severe thunderstorms despite advance warning. According to FEMA, lightning is the leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards.

### Check the Weather Forecast

If you will be working outdoors, check the weather forecast before you begin work. Pay close attention to whether thunderstorms are forecasted for that day and at what time they will begin.



### Watch the Sky

Many lightning victims are caught outside during a storm because they did not act promptly to get to a safe place, or they go back outside too soon after a storm has passed. If signs of approaching thunderstorms occur, workers should not begin any task they cannot quickly stop. Watch for darkening clouds and increasing wind speeds, which can indicate developing thunderstorms.

### Shelter

Each job site should have a plan for shelter in the event bad weather hits. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends seeking out fully enclosed buildings with electrical wiring and plumbing or If safe building structures are not accessible, sheltering in hard-topped metal vehicles with rolled up windows. Remain in the shelter for at least **30 minutes** after hearing the last sound of thunder

