

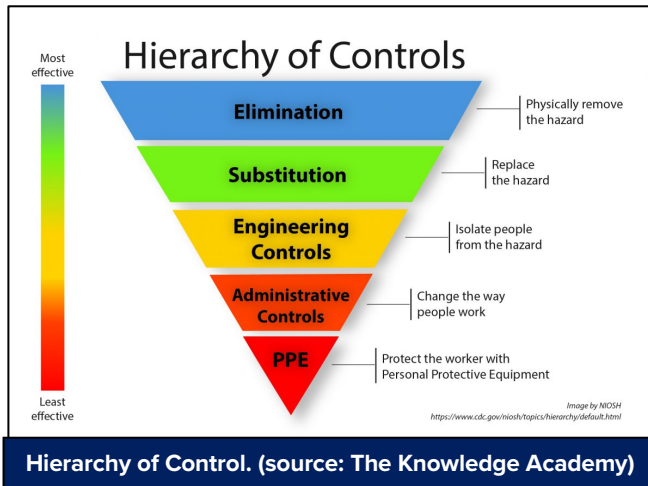


WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

TOPIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR WORKING DURING THE NORTHEAST MONSOON PERIOD				Reference Number: 2024/WSHN/01
Approved by: Acting Director of Compliance and International Affairs Division	Endorsed by: Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer	Issue date: 18 January 2024	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to remind all principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work to be aware of the risks associated when working during the Northeast Monsoon period (also known as the rainy season) and the necessary safety precautions to be undertaken in such circumstances.

The Northeast Monsoon period occurs from the month of December to March brought by the northeast wind and affects most tropical areas including Brunei Darussalam. The main rainfall period which is commonly known as ‘*Musim Tengkujuh*,’ is between the months of December and January (wet period) whereas the month of February to March is considered to be the dry period as there are less rainfall and rainy days. According to the Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (BDMD), this Northeast Monsoon period typically sees heavy rainfall as well as strong winds with the occasional rise in wave height (at times reaching more than 3 metres) and disruptions to weather such as the development of tropical storms.



The impacts of active weather should be taken into consideration and be included in the workplace risk assessment for potentially affected activities; the hierarchy of control (i.e., Elimination, Substitution, Engineering Control, Administrative Control, Personal Protective Equipment) should also be implemented to adequately reduce the associated risks to as low as reasonably practicable as per the Workplace Safety and Health (Risk Management) Regulations, 2014.

Increasing severe weather events pose a constant threat to worksite safety as heavy thunderstorms with strong winds increase the risk of falling trees or branches, slippery surface conditions, flash floods, landslides and damage to assets. This can lead to dangerous conditions for workers such as being exposed to electrical hazards, slips and falls, reduced visibility, structural instability especially in construction sites and equipment malfunction due to exposure to water from the rain. Workers aboard marine vessels, ferries and offshore platforms should also be vigilant of rising water levels and choppy sea conditions.



Landslide blocking a road in Brunei.
(source: The Scoop)

There is one instance of a workplace incident that occurred due to the rainy weather where a construction worker was impaled through his thigh by an exposed T12 steel bar after he had slipped on the floor. Another incident is where during a thunderstorm, a worker fell from work at height after suffering a seizure that was triggered after hearing loud thunder.

Planning for the development and implementation of any emergency procedures is a requirement for employers as per their duty under Section 12 of the Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009 (WSHO, 2009). All workplaces and worksites must have adequate resources, facilities and procedures in place to maintain effective emergency management before, during and after severe weather conditions.

To get the latest weather updates and advisories you can download the Brunei WX mobile app, contact the duty meteorological forecaster at BDMD's Forecast Centre through the Weather Line 114 or visit their website at www.met.gov.bn or follow their Facebook (@bruneiweather) and Instagram (@bruneiweather). Tide information can be obtained from the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) website on www.mpabd.gov.bn.

For further clarifications on the matter, please submit your enquiries by clicking "General Enquiries" at the SHENA website: www.shena.gov.bn or contact the SHENA office on the general number +673 238 2000 within office hours.

END