



Health & Safety Home (uawfordjointtrusts.org)

# National Joint Committee on Health and Safety

April 7, 2023

To: UAW Local Presidents Plant Managers  
 UAW Local Building Chairpersons Human Resources Managers  
 UAW Health & Safety Representatives Risk Managers / Safety Engineers  
 Regional Safety & Security Managers

Subject: **Severe Weather Preparation/Response**

## **BACKGROUND**

We have a comprehensive package to address severe weather that has been in place since 2012. It includes a flow chart of alert levels, an assessment method for unsheltered outdoor operations, and stand down messages for both leadership and all workers. Feedback was positive that these materials are helpful for severe weather preparation and response.

Severe weather is a true test of our preparedness, and a coordinated response is vital to protect our workforce. Evaluation of our processes must continue to ensure they are best suited for any severe weather situation and include organized, seamless execution. Having routine drills should further enhance this process.

As an outcome of the 2019 National Negotiations, the parties reaffirmed their agreement to deliver an annual departmental stand down to address "Severe Weather/Natural Disaster Preparedness." Single Point Lessons have been developed to assist in the delivery of this important communication.

## **AccuWeather Notification Criteria**

As part of an annual review please familiarize yourself with following key points:

- Severe weather AccuWeather notifications for a Level 3 (tornado) will continue to be issued based on a 5-mile radius around the site and the 5-mile radius will begin at the start of the site property perimeter rather than a center point.
- Null warnings will be communicated only if there is a National Weather Service Tornado Warning issued for the area, but the actual storm will not enter the 5-mile radius around the site.
- Each facility should check to ensure that all allocated contact slots are identified to help ensure the proper number of people are available to receive the initial warnings and initiate actions. It is crucial to validate these contacts are current and placed strategically based on operating patterns on an ongoing basis (i.e., monthly).

**CRITICAL POINT:** If any of a site's primary AccuWeather contacts receive a Level 3 warning, and the take shelter alarm for that site has not been activated, they are to immediately contact Security and instruct them to initiate the alarm. There are no discussions required.

As we continue to improve our Emergency Response capabilities for severe weather, as well as other emergencies, please take the time to review your local response plans and ensure the appropriate people from your site are familiar with them.

It is equally important that each site continue to perform not only their monthly ERT drills on each shift, but that each site completes an evacuation drill or a take shelter drill each at least annually, on each shift, alternating the type of drill annually. These drills should be used to help identify any gaps and opportunities for improvement to your local response plan.

Severe weather conditions can, and will, test our overall preparedness in ensuring the safety of our employees. Our ongoing review of our processes will continue to ensure that we are best prepared for any severe weather situation.

## **SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES FOR LEADERSHIP SINGLE POINT LESSON (BLUE)**

This document offers guidance to describe the AccuWeather severe weather warning service and the local process for reacting to severe weather warnings. The local process has been streamlined and simplified into a three-level escalation. Level I and Level II require discussion and planning with some actions, up to and including, altering outside operations. **When a Level III warning is issued, the plant must immediately take shelter from the impending severe weather.**

This single point lesson must be shared with Union and Company leadership and other appropriate responders such as Security and the plant's Emergency Response Team on all shifts. In addition, review it at your local Safety Process Review Board meeting. **It is important, whenever a Level I or II warning is received, to jointly develop action plans that need to be implemented immediately and as conditions evolve. Do not wait until it's too late to act. {Please share this letter with all joint shift leadership.}**

### **SEVERE WEATHER STAND DOWN (GREEN)**

This stand down message is intended to be delivered to all workers on a departmental/area basis. The intent is to provide a forum to have a **quality discussion** on the local severe weather notification and response process. This includes how a warning is initiated, pointing out the location of the nearest shelter and how to get to it, and the expectations of the workers while in the shelter.

NOTE: If worker is unsure of shelter location, you must physically escort them, via the most direct walking route, to nearest shelter. This is typical of new workers or shelter location changes.

### **SEVERE WEATHER ASSESSMENTS OF UNSHELTERED OUTDOOR OPERATIONS**

As part of the annual delivery of this Severe Weather Message, please ensure that you have updated your response procedures for any outdoor operations that may have changed throughout the year. These procedures must be included as part of the facility's overall emergency response plan. Examples include drive-off, roof work, construction activities and material storage areas. The risk assessment should provide direction on what should be done during a Level II warning and identify which operations may need to be altered.

NOTE: If you cannot control or alter the operations to ensure safety, then the operation should be suspended until it can safely resume.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The results of the risk assessment are to be discussed at the local Safety Process Review Board meeting. Once approved, the risk assessment should be shared with affected leadership on all shifts and with Security. Unresolved concerns regarding the risk assessment at the plant level may be elevated to the Regional Safety and Security Manager or to the National Joint Committee on Health and Safety by following the Issue Resolution Process. The completed risk assessment must be added to the local Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

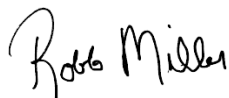
### **SHELTER AREAS**

With ongoing changes in many of our facilities, it is critical that each location annually verify identification and appropriateness of size of their shelter areas. Be sure all shelter areas are labeled with appropriate signage. Additionally, each location needs to reaffirm their process for accountability of employees while in the shelter areas.

### **COMPLETION**

The Single Point Lesson and Stand Down must be delivered by **Friday, May 26, 2023**.

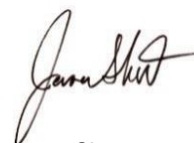
If you have any questions regarding the implementation of this process, please contact Michael Whited, UAW International Representative at (313) 392-7201 / [mwhited@ford.com](mailto:mwhited@ford.com) or Bruce McMaster, Regional Safety Manager at (313) 269-3395 / [bmcmast1@ford.com](mailto:bmcmast1@ford.com).



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Attachments