

Road construction crews often work in open areas around metal equipment, temporary traffic control devices, bridges, and elevated surfaces. Lightning can strike miles ahead of a storm and create life-threatening conditions with very little warning.

Why Lightning Is Dangerous:

- **Lightning can:**
 - Strike without rain falling
 - Travel through the ground and wet pavement
 - Strike cranes, pavers, rollers, excavators, signs, and other metal objects
 - Cause serious injury or death instantly



Superintendent Responsibilities

- Superintendents and foremen must actively monitor weather conditions throughout the shift.
- A designated person should be assigned to monitor storms and communicate stop-work orders.

Approved shelters include

- Fully enclosed buildings
- Hard-top vehicles with windows closed
- **Tents, bridges, and open equipment cabs are NOT safe shelters.**

Lightning Safety Procedures (The 30-30 Rule)

- If thunder is heard within 30 seconds of seeing lightning:
 - Stop all outdoor work immediately
 - Move to approved shelter
 - Do not resume work until 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder
- When lightning is detected nearby:
 - Stop paving, utility, bridge, crane, and traffic control operations
 - Leave open areas immediately
 - Stay away from metal objects, guardrails, fences, and equipment
 - Lower booms, buckets, and attachments if time permits
 - Secure equipment safely without delaying evacuation
 - Crane and lifting operations must stop immediately during lightning threats.



Final Reminder

If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning; No deadline or production goal is worth risking a life.

Stop working. Seek shelter immediately. Resume only when conditions are safe.

