



# Working in Bad Weather



An introduction  
to Safetree<sup>TM</sup>

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Forestry workers find themselves on the job in all sorts of weather. But there comes a time when weather conditions – especially strong wind – make it too hazardous to stay on the job. Consult this chart for guidance on when to switch jobs or stop work all together.

		Units in km/h	Units in knots	What you can see
	<b>Calm</b>	0	0	Smoke rises vertically
	<b>Light Winds</b>	19 km/h or less	10 knots or less	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind
	<b>Moderate Winds</b>	20-29 km/h	11-16 knots	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved
	<b>Fresh Winds</b>	30-39 km/h	17-21 knots	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland water
	<b>Strong Winds</b>	40-50 km/h	22-27 knots	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires; road signs erected with difficulty
<b>Cease Work – Seek Other Tasks</b>	<b>Near Gale</b>	51-62 km/h	28-33 knots	Whole trees in motion; somewhat hard to walk against wind
	<b>Gale</b>	63-75 km/h	34-40 knots	Twigs break off trees; very hard to walk against wind
		76-87 km/h	41-47 knots	Slight structural damage occurs; roofing dislodged; larger branches break off
<b>No Forest Work</b>	<b>Storm</b>	88-102 km/h	48-55 knots	Trees uprooted; considerable structural damage
		103 km/h or more	56 knots plus	Very rarely experienced - widespread damage

(Based on Beaufort Wind Scale)

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## Safe to work?

**Gale force:** If it's windy enough to break twigs and shake small branches from trees (yellow area) it's not safe to keep working within two tree lengths of standing trees.

- ▶ **Stop work** and do another task, or move to a site where you won't be working underneath or near standing trees.

**Dry soil:** When working among wind-firm trees under dry soil conditions, move to an open area as soon as wind reaches **gale force**.

**Wet soil:** When working among wind-firm trees under wet soil conditions, or among poorly rooted or non-wind-firm trees, move to an open area as soon as wind becomes **near gale force**.

**Wet and cold weather:** Heavy rain is another hazard. If it's stopping you looking up to assess a tree for hazards, you need to stop falling. If it's very cold, make sure you're wearing the right kind, and amount, of clothing and wet weather gear to keep you warm and dry.

## Check in

Check in more often when you're working in windy conditions, or in other adverse weather conditions, because you're more likely to suffer an injury. If you become worried about worsening weather, stop work and get away from the area. Talk to your crew manager about stopping work or doing something else.