

# Wind

## ACTSAFE SAFETY BULLETIN #38d

This bulletin describes safety considerations for windy weather conditions. High winds can be associated with extreme weather phenomenon, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and high- and low-pressure systems.

### HAZARDS

Potential wind hazards include:

- The wind itself
- Dust
- Flying debris
- Falling trees or branches (during or after a wind event)

Strong winds can unbalance you or sweep you off your feet, damage sets, and blow equipment over or carry it away. Flying debris and dust can result in “struck-by” injuries and eye injuries.

### CONTROL MEASURES

If wind might affect your production, check the weather forecast and plan accordingly. Consider the following control measures:

- Reassess wind speed throughout the day. If the wind picks up, inspect the work area for potential hazards such as falling limbs and trees that might uproot.
- Wear protective headgear and safety eyewear, if necessary.
- Get down from elevated areas, including sets and scaffolding, before the weather worsens.
- Secure and store loose equipment.
- Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for when to lower aerial lifts and lighting, diffusion, and camera boom equipment.
- Check tent pegs and tie down green screens. If necessary, strike tents and similar structures.
- Turn off generators and other powered equipment if the genny operator decides it’s necessary and safe to do so.
- Postpone high-risk activities such as work from heights and work involving elevated platforms, lifts, scaffolding, booms, mobile equipment, camera cars, stunts, pyrotechnics, or cranes.
- If you’re concerned about wind levels, talk to your supervisor.
- Move to your pre-determined safe area or muster station, if instructed to do so.
- Don’t return to an evacuated area until someone with authority has given the “all clear” signal.

- For more information, refer to the safety plan that should be in place for your production.

**Note:** Some of these precautions (e.g., wearing safety eyewear) may also apply to wind effects such as rotor wash from aircraft and large Ritter fans.

#### Wind limits for aerial lifts and similar equipment

Follow the manufacturer’s specified wind limits when using aerial lifts and similar equipment. Consider using an anemometer to measure wind speed.

For example, a JLG supplemental manual for set lighting technicians and studio grips describes the following wind speed limits for certain lifts when using light diffusion frames or set lighting attached to a boom.

Area of attachment	Maximum wind speed
4' x 4'	40 km/h (25 mph)
6' x 6'	40 km/h (25 mph)
8' x 8'	40 km/h (25 mph)
12' x 12'	29 km/h (18 mph)
20' x 20'	18 km/h (11 mph)



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### Beaufort wind force scale (excerpt)

The Beaufort scale measures wind force in a range from 0 (Calm) to 12 (Hurricane). The following excerpt describes the range of conditions from where you need to be aware and take precautions (force 6) to the maximum conditions you would reasonably be expected to work in (force 8).

Force	Wind speed (km/h)	Description	Land conditions
6	39–49	Strong breeze	Large tree branches moving. Whistling heard in overhead wires. Umbrellas difficult to use.
7	50–61	Near gale	Whole trees swaying. Some difficulty walking into the wind.
8	62–74	Gale, fresh gale	Twigs breaking off trees. Cars veering on road. Walking is very difficult.

### REGULATORY REFERENCES

- [G7.33-2 and G7.33-3, Cooling Power of Wind](#)

### RELATED RESOURCES

- [Preventing Cold-Related Illness](#) (Safety Bulletin)
- [Wind Chill Chart](#) (Safety Bulletin Addendum)

#### Actsife Safety Association

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