

# HSEQ Bulletin

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## Lightning Safety

Procedure 4.82 is the Lightning Safety Plan. This bulletin is a quick guide to its contents. When lightning and thunder is seen and heard, the following needs to be applied to ensure the safety of all workers at the Geraldton Port.

Keep a lookout for thunderstorm clouds in the region. They can develop in as little as 15 minutes. If thunder is heard and any lightning can be seen, you are already in a higher risk situation.

**30 Second Rule:** Once thunder can be heard, estimate the distance to the storm activity by using the Flash to Bang method. Count the seconds between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder. Use the guide **3 seconds equals 1 km.** If the counted time is less than 30 seconds (10km) then suspend works (see below).

**Suspension of Activity:** You should seek a safe location whenever the Flash to Bang time interval is less than 30 seconds (or 10 km distance) to the lightning activity.

**Resumption of Activity:** All persons must remain undercover until thirty (30) minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder, as trailing storm clouds can still carry a lingering charge.

***So remember the 30/30 rule. Less than 30 seconds between lightning and thunder suspend works. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder bang to restart work.***

**Safe Locations - Do not remain outdoors.** The following locations would normally be regarded as the most appropriate to seek shelter:

- ✓ Inside a large enclosed structure, keeping away from doors, windows, metal fittings and devices connected to the electricity supply.
- ✓ An enclosed metal vehicle (such as a car, van, ship, locomotive cab or truck).

**Unsafe locations – the following locations should be avoided:**

- ✗ Small structures or sheds.
- ✗ Open areas in close proximity to the tallest localised structure (e.g. shiploader);
- ✗ persons should also refrain from contacting metal objects or using the telephone, computers or any other devices connected to electrical/phone lines.

Please refer to Procedure 4.82 Lightning Safety for further information.

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