

Safety Bulletin



Wet Weather Safety Precautions OIF SB-033

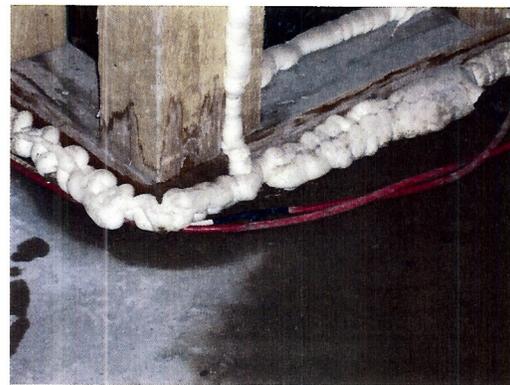


The upcoming Iraqi winter season will be challenging. Iraqi winters generally begin in October and last through April and consist of many environmental dangers to include slick surfaces and rain. This rain presents many hazards to our forces and actions must be taken to mitigate the threat. Personnel must address the following items and take appropriate actions.

- Identify all areas that may flood or become obstacles due to standing water or mud.
- Build up low or areas that are prone to flooding with gravel or dirt.
- Ensure proper drainage to prevent flooding.
- Weatherproof areas that may become slippery e.g. with non-slip tape, paint, or grating.
- Identify power lines or cables that may pose an electrical hazard during rain or flooding.
- Have the lines repaired or rerouted by a certified electrical technician.
- Ensure all interior electrical wiring and equipment are protected from leaks and all exterior wiring and product are weatherproofed.

In buildings where leaks may occur, ensure appropriate precautions are taken to protect electrical equipment and computers.

Sandbags will double in weight when drenched with water. Ensure roofs and walls are properly braced to handle the additional weight.



Lightning Safety

- Avoid large masses of isolated metal in open fields, e.g., wire fences, antennas, metal pipes, equipment and other metallic objects that could attract lightning.
- Avoid tall objects, isolated trees or poles in open spaces and bodies of water.
- Minimize use of electrical equipment of any kind, especially phones and radios with antenna extended. If time permits, disconnect items to prevent damage.
- Discontinue refueling and ammunition activities when lightning is within five miles.
- If you see lightning, begin counting seconds; if you hear thunder within 30 seconds, you are in the danger zone.
- Find shelter, with the best place being a building or a vehicle with rubber tires.
- Do not huddle together in a group if unavoidably caught in a flat, open space or bare hilltop. Kneel bent forward with hands resting on your knees.

Vehicle Safety

- Keep your windshields, windows, headlights, backup lights and turn signals clean.
- Ensure your windshield wipers work and keep the windshield washer reservoirs full.
- Slow down and increase vehicle separation IAW CREW limitations.
- Ensure vehicles have even tire treads on all four wheels.
- Maintain 3-points of contact while on the top of vehicles.