



SHARP START



October 21 - When Conditions Change, Stop

Heavy wind and rainfall collapsed the tent on top of the platform and gathered a huge amount of rainwater which was leaking through as we were welding, we stopped work.	and removed the tent and disposed of it properly
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Learning: Don't Work Through Changing Conditions

Hot work requires us to pay attention not only to the task itself, but also to the conditions around the work area. Weather can change those conditions quickly, especially when work is being performed on a platform or under a temporary shelter.

In this observation, heavy wind and rainfall caused the tent on top of the platform to collapse. A large amount of rainwater also gathered and began leaking through while welding was taking place. At that point, the work environment had changed significantly from the conditions that existed when the job began.

The crew recognized the change and stopped the welding work rather than trying to work through the conditions. The tent was then removed and properly disposed of.

This is an important Human Performance lesson: the plan that was safe a few minutes ago may not be safe after conditions change. Wind, rain, water accumulation, damaged temporary structures, or other changes can introduce new hazards that weren't present when the job started.

Stopping doesn't mean the job failed. It means the crew recognized that the conditions had changed and made the decision to address the new condition before continuing.

Before and during hot work, take a moment to look beyond the immediate task. Ask yourself: What has changed? Is the work area still suitable for the job we're doing?

If conditions change enough to affect the work, stop and reassess.

Hazards

- Heavy wind around the work area
- Rainwater accumulating on the platform
- Water leaking into the welding area
- Collapsed or damaged temporary shelter
- Changing conditions during hot work

Words of Wisdom

The work environment can change while the job is underway. When conditions change, don't force the original plan to stop working, reassess, and make the area safe before continuing.

Pause and Think

- What conditions could change while I am working?
- Is the work area still suitable for the task?
- Has weather affected my work area or equipment?
- What should I do if the conditions change during the job?
- Am I willing to stop when the original plan no longer fits the conditions?

Closing Thought

A safe job requires more than a good plan it requires us to recognize when conditions change and adjust before continuing.