

Traffic Control Weather Policy

Weather can plan a huge factor in our ability to set up, maintain and remove a closure safely. There are many weather factors that require consideration when traffic control is to be in place. Things as obvious as rain and snow, but also sunlight (which can blind a driver) or lightning which is an obvious hazard to all workers can affect traffic control, but not the work itself. Direct Traffic Management's (DTM) mandate is to ensure the safety of all parties on the roadway, workers and drivers, and we must be diligent with that mandate when weather can affect either one or the other. As a result, our staff will use their experience and our "Weather Decision Matrix" as tools to help them establish the level of safety for all closures where weather may be a factor. In addition to this the following also apply:

- Our crews will not cancel the work, job, project or shift, they will only make the decision whether it is safe enough to set up or remove the closure at the required time.
- The crew will wait in a safe location until the weather changes, improves or you (the customer) decide to cancel the work.
- Unexpected changes to the weather or road conditions may mean that some changes may be required to our set up or removal procedure, time to set up or remove, or we may need to call the road authority to address the condition (ie. Snow removal or salting)
- We will always try to work with you to ensure the maximum level of safety for your workers and ours, as well as the public traffic.
- In the case of a dispute over the conditions or level of safety, our crew may call a supervisor to the site to help with the situation.

Although weather conditions may not have any effect on the work you are performing on the job site, it is important to remember that there are other considerations to be taken into account. Helping you work safely within our closure is our priority, but we cannot risk our crews' safety or that of the drivers on the roadway.

Weather Decision Matrix

Please note that these are only guidelines for your decisions regarding temporary traffic control closures. There are many other factors that will affect the final decision to set up or not and these can only be made on site and at the time. The safety of all parties should be considered when using this tool for the set up of traffic control.

Weather Condition	Specific Condition	Road	Visibility	Action
Rain	Heavy rain falling Vehicle "Spray" very heavy	Very wet or flooded	Very poor	Wait in safe location, not on roadway
	Light rain falling, not clearing Spray heavy	Very wet - wet	Poor	Wait in safe location, not on roadway
	Light rain falling, conditions clearing Spray moderate to heavy	Wet	Poor - Fair	Wait in safe location, not on roadway. Possible to wait closer to work location to be prepared for action.
	Rain ended, recently Spray moderate to heavy	Wet – track dry	Fair	Possible to install signs for closure, no lane encroachment at this time Wait on shoulder for improvement in conditions
	Rain ended, conditions clearing Spray light to moderate	Track dry - dry	Fair - good	Installation of signs Possible encroachment or wait for improvement in conditions

Weather Decision Matrix –Continued

Weather Condition	Specific Condition	Road	Visibility	Action
Snow	In almost any snow conditions the roadway should be cleared and work cancelled to allow for winter maintenance operations to occur. See below of other possible snow conditions. General guidelines for rain can be used for wet snow conditions as well.			
	Closure in place and snow begins to fall	Wet	Fair	Remove closure at earliest possible time.
	Closure in place heavy snow falling	Snow covered	Poor	Do not open closure until situation is reviewed by MTO. Roadway may need to be plowed or salted prior to closure opening.
Fog	Fog is a weather condition that only affects visibility of traffic control devices and workers. As a result it should be addressed in a very serious manner and evaluated with utmost scrutiny for safety. Both worker and driver safety are seriously affected by foggy weather. Due to the nature of fog a site evaluation is the only true way to know if it will be safe to set up traffic control measures. Keep in mind that fog can change in location and intensity very quickly.			
	Heavy fog	Dry	Very poor	Wait in safe location, not on roadway
	Patchy or light fog	Dry	Fair - Poor	Possible to install signs for closure, no lane encroachment at this time Wait on shoulder for improvement in conditions

	Very light fog	Dry	Fair - Good	Installation of signs Possible encroachment or wait for improvement in conditions
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Other Weather Conditions affecting traffic control

Weather Condition	Specific Condition	Road	Visibility	Action
Thunder & Lightning	Severe weather conditions, possible high winds. These conditions can form very quickly and be extreme	Dry or Wet	Very good to poor	If lightning is ever present near the work area, all workers should remain in a safe location (inside the truck) until it passes Do not take any chances with your personal safety
Wind	Heavy winds and or truck turbulence	Dry	Very Good	Some adjustment may be needed to secure temporary equipment and signing so it does not blow into live traffic or create an additional hazardous condition.
Sun	Low level sunlight. Very bright (blinding) light at dawn or dusk	Dry	Poor	Waiting until the sun rises (Dawn) or lowers (Dusk) and is out of the drivers sightlines.

Dust	Dust from within the work area or from another source	Dry	Possibly Poor	Adjusting the location of the closure transition area to stay clear of dust area if possible. If source of dust is from within the work area, inform the contractor if you feel it may affect the closure compliance.
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