

Weather Wise: Operator Decision Challenge – Answers

Scenario 1 — Heavy Rain Overnight

Best Answer: C — Inspect soil stability and delay trench work

Rationale: Heavy rain dramatically increases the risk of trench collapse because saturated soil loses structural integrity. Inspection and delay protect workers and equipment.

Scenario 2 — High Winds on Lift Day

Best Answer: B — Delay the lift until wind conditions improve

Rationale: Wind compromises load control and crane stability. Waiting is the safest option.

Scenario 3 — Extreme Heat Wave

Best Answer: B — Shorten cycles and increase cooling breaks

Rationale: Heat stresses machinery and operators. Adjusted work cycles prevent overheating and fatigue.

Scenario 4 — Freezing Conditions

Best Answer: C — Use proper traction techniques and inspect surfaces

Rationale: Frozen ground reduces traction and increases the risk of sliding or equipment instability. proper cold-weather operation techniques should be used (slow movements, reduced throttle, traction aids).

Scenario 5 — Sudden Lightning Storm

Best Answer: B — Seek shelter and suspend operations

Rationale: Lightning is an immediate safety hazard — Suspending work immediately protects both people and machinery.