

Toolbox Talk No: 301			
Issue:	Climate-Related Environmental Responsibilities		
Location:	Via SMS Text Message, MRG Employee Portal	Date:	08/09/2026
Briefed by:	MRG Management / Supervisors	Time:	Various
Points Raised and Comments			
Purpose of this Toolbox Talk Climate conditions can directly affect how we carry out our work and how our activities impact the surrounding environment. This toolbox talk is to improve staff awareness of their environmental responsibilities, particularly when working within the rail corridor where drainage systems, vegetation, waterways, soil and surrounding communities may be affected. Every worker has a responsibility to identify environmental risks, follow established controls and report changing conditions before environmental harm occurs. Why Climate-Related Environmental Awareness Matters Changing or extreme weather conditions can increase environmental risks during rail construction and maintenance works. Heavy rainfall, storms, high winds, extreme heat and prolonged dry periods can change site conditions quickly and make existing controls ineffective. Our activities must be planned so that weather conditions do not result in pollution, erosion, uncontrolled runoff, excessive dust, waste or damage to the surrounding environment. Common Environmental Risks • Heavy rainfall causing erosion, sediment runoff or flooding • Sediment entering rail drainage systems or waterways • High winds spreading dust, waste or unsecured materials • Hot and dry conditions increasing dust and fire risks • Fuel, oil or chemical spills entering soil or drainage systems • Excessive vehicle and plant idling creating unnecessary emissions • Poor waste management or materials being left unsecured • Damage to vegetation or areas outside approved work limits Mandatory Controls & Safe Work Practices Planning & Weather Awareness • Consider forecast weather conditions when planning work activities. • Review environmental controls during pre-starts and SWMS briefings. • Reassess controls when weather or site conditions change. • Secure the worksite before significant rain, storms or high winds Erosion, Sediment & Water • Maintain sediment fencing, bunding and other erosion controls. • Keep stockpiles and loose materials away from drains and waterways.			

- Do not discharge concrete washout, chemicals, fuels or contaminated water into stormwater systems.
- Inspect environmental controls following significant rainfall.

Dust & Air Quality

- Use water suppression or other approved controls where required.
- Minimise unnecessary disturbance of dry soil and ballast.
- Reduce unnecessary vehicle and plant idling.
- Stop or modify activities if dust cannot be adequately controlled.

Waste, Fuels & Chemicals

- Store fuels and chemicals in approved containers and locations.
- Ensure spill kits are available and accessible.
- Segregate and dispose of waste through approved waste streams.
- Secure lightweight materials and waste during windy conditions.

Rail-Specific Considerations

- Protect rail drainage systems from sediment, concrete slurry, fuels and chemicals.
- Keep environmental controls clear of the Danger Zone, access routes and rail safety equipment.
- Ensure environmental controls do not create additional rail safety hazards.
- Protect vegetation and environmentally sensitive areas outside approved work zones.
- Environmental requirements must continue to be followed during possessions, shutdowns and time-critical works.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Consider weather and environmental risks when planning activities.
- Ensure appropriate environmental controls are installed and maintained.
- Monitor changing conditions throughout the shift.
- Ensure environmental incidents and near misses are reported.
- Stop or modify activities where controls are no longer effective.

Worker Responsibilities

- Follow site environmental plans, SWMS and instructions.
- Use resources responsibly and minimise unnecessary waste.
- Keep work areas clean and prevent pollutants entering drains or surrounding land.
- Report spills, damaged controls or environmental concerns immediately.
- Never assume someone else will deal with an environmental issue.

Stop Work Authority

STOP WORK if:

- Heavy rain, wind, heat or other conditions make environmental controls ineffective.
- Sediment, chemicals, fuel or contaminated water may leave the worksite.
- A spill cannot be safely contained.
- Work may cause uncontrolled environmental damage.
- Required environmental controls are missing or damaged.

MS – Toolbox Meeting Records				MRG-CF-TCR-07
Rev: 2.0	Next Rev Date: July 2028	Issue Date:	July 2024	

Environmental Incident Response

- Stop the source of pollution if safe to do so.
- Contain the spill or release using appropriate spill equipment.
- Protect drains and waterways where possible.
- Notify the Supervisor immediately.
- Follow the project's Environmental Management Plan and incident reporting requirements.
- Do not wash contaminants into drains, ballast or surrounding soil.

Key Takeaways

- Environmental responsibility belongs to everyone on site.
- Weather conditions can quickly change environmental risks.
- Prevent pollution rather than responding after it occurs.
- Protect drains, waterways, soil and vegetation.
- Minimise waste, unnecessary emissions and resource use.
- If conditions change – Stop, Think, Assess and adjust the controls.
- Leave the worksite and surrounding environment in a condition we can be proud of.