

Winter Weather Warning

As the weather changes and darker nights draw in we historically see an increase in the number of injuries related to these conditions.

Only recently one of our colleagues fell on a public footpath and suffered a serious injury to their shoulder.

Please be aware that leaves will be gathering on footpaths and roads and with the onset of winter there is the potential that snow and ice will affect traffic routes.



In these types of conditions you should consider the risks associated with your journey – whatever the mode.

Be satisfied your journey is absolutely necessary. If in doubt, talk to your line manager. Remember, if you are going to drive, check your vehicle is fit for the conditions and you have equipment which may help during emergencies e.g. warm clothes, hot drinks, food, a windscreen scraper etc.

Finally consider your personal safety. Travel to and from meetings with a colleague if possible. Let your colleagues know where you're going and what time you expect to be back. Think about the potential risks you may face when out and about.

For more information contact
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HEi/02

Actions

- Ensure you plan your journey and wear footwear appropriate for the weather conditions.
- Take extra care in icy or slippery conditions.
- Think about the route you are going to take, avoid dark walkways or underpasses.
- Don't carry heavy work bags, only take what you need. Consider using a taxi if taking heavy overnight bags.
- Ensure that people responsible for buildings, depots and outstations have plans in place to grit paths and car parks.
- In poor driving conditions assess if you really need to make that journey. Can you use tele or video conferencing?
- Ensure that if you drive, you and your vehicle are prepared.
- More information on personal safety can be found at the Suzy Lamplugh website at:
 - <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/npsd-2016>
 - Further hints and tips on slips, trips and falls can be found at:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-for-major-road-schemes-slips-trips-and-falls>
- Check the weather before you travel
 - <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings/#?tab=map&map=Warnings&zoom=5&lon=-3.50&lat=55.50&fcTime=1478476800>