

Winter safety: Site conditions



Incident notification



Alert



Information



Toolbox talk



Why are we doing this talk?

Each winter, there is a surge in the number of injuries caused either directly by the conditions onsite or the impact these conditions have on people's physical health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is vital that we know the risks and plan accordingly to maintain an Injury-Free Environment.

How can it affect us?

Slips, trips and falls

These are one of the most common causes of injury in the winter time. The following issues or hazards are areas to look out for at this time of year:

Mud control – ensure that mud is prevented from getting on to both site and public roads. Are there sufficient facilities for cleaning boots and site facilities? Wet muddy access steps floors are just as much of a hazard as the condition of the site outside.

Icy conditions – ice tread shoe attachments are a cheap way of improving your footing in freezing conditions. If the temperature regularly drops below 8°C, are ice indicator signs installed on site? Do pedestrian access routes need re-stoning with the turn of wetter weather?

Water leaks – ensure that pipes are protected against freezing. Is there equipment ready to pump out water should pipes burst and leak onto site?

Lighting – review levels on site ensuring all areas are well lit. Additional task lighting should be requested appropriate for the task. Ensure lights out fail safe systems are working in the event of an emergency.

Site housekeeping – good housekeeping is a requirement at any time of year but it is particularly important as the weather worsens and ground conditions underfoot deteriorate.



What do we need to do?

Additional daily focus for supervisors

Correct information, instruction, training or supervision is essential to ensuring that winter issues or hazards are managed effectively onsite each day. The following is a simple checklist for supervisors for logical winter preparations, or L¹W²P³

Logistics – implement a procedure for daily inspection and clearing of access/egress routes or delivery areas, ensuring that unsafe locations are restricted before intervening to resolve them.

Welfare – ensure drying rooms are working efficiently with no fire hazards being introduced and that canteens are kept supplied and warm.

Weather – is the local forecast available to monitor for extreme conditions and help plan contingencies.

Programme – review the programme ensuring it takes into account a potential reduction in working hours and adverse weather conditions. Ensure issues of timing are reported to management for resolution.

Provisions – ensure that grit / sand / shovels etc. have been ordered. Ensure spill kits are kept dry.

PPE – ensure PPE is reviewed against the change in weather. Ensure additional PPE for the cold weather does not create additional hazards such as negatively affecting hearing or mobility.

Pre-Task Briefings – supervisors to ensure winter working issues are discussed with the workforce before every new shift.

Q&A

What did we understand?

1. How can you stop locks from freezing?
 - a) Apply WD-40 – correct answer
 - b) Apply Brasso
 - c) Apply olive oil

2. Name three of the six Logical winter preparations?
 - Logistics
 - Welfare
 - Weather
 - Program
 - Provisions
 - PPE
 - Pre-Task Briefings

3. Name any three hazards which can cause slips, trips or falls?
 - Mud
 - Ice or snow
 - Water
 - Poor lighting
 - Poor housekeeping