

Winter safety: At play and at home



Incident notification



Alert



Information



Toolbox talk



At play

Ice and snow can be fun – but there are risks which can cause death or serious injuries.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents says that in the last 10 years, 20 people have drowned after falling through ice. Many more people have been injured or rescued. Young children, and boys or men of any age are most at risk. Children are attracted to frozen lakes and canals as they present natural ice skating opportunities.

Over half of all ice-related drowning incidents involved the attempted rescue of another person or dog. Do NOT attempt to rescue a dog in difficulty in water. There are many cases where a person has died while trying to rescue a dog. In most cases the dog usually scrambles to safety on its own. Do not throw sticks or balls for dogs near ice.



There have been a number of deaths as a result of people using sledges. Always ensure that there is plenty of slipway for stopping. Make sure that there are no obstacles which you can collide into. Check that the slope is not too steep for the rider to be able to stop if needed.

Back injuries are common when people shovel snow. Don't try and lift too much snow. You can hurt yourself if the shovel blade strikes uneven ground and comes to an abrupt halt. Always use a plastic shovel – not a metal one – as this cuts the risk of an injury. Try and clear only a couple of inches of snow at a time – don't wait until it has stopped snowing as the snow will become more compact and heavier to lift.

At home

Keeping safe at home is equally important as being safe at work. The UK is often caught out by a sudden cold snap or snow.

Make sure that:

- Your boiler is checked and serviced before winter
- You have an alternative heater for at least one room, in case the boiler breaks down
- You have enough food in case you are snowed in

Distribution:

EMT/SMT

All OUs/EFs (via Environment Manager or EF lead)

Originating OU only

Action required:

Brief

Display

Information only