



# Winter Working

## Toolbox Talk

***We all** have a responsibility to ensure that if an activity cannot be performed safely, then it shouldn't be performed at all*



# Site hazards

- Snow, ice, slush, mud and algae increasing the risk of slips, trips and falls
- Heavy rainfall
- High winds
- Reduced daylight during working hours
- Reduced visibility
- Hypothermia, chilblains or frostbite
- Unacceptable carbon monoxide levels from diesel generators, Calor heaters etc.
- Increased risk of HAV's
- Windborne dust
- Road conditions being effected
- Increased loading on surfaces, platforms etc due to heavy snow fall



# What measures can we take?



- RAMS to be in places for snow clearing and gritting activities... and communicated... this may also include review of temporary works arrangements etc
- Responsibilities for snow clearing and gritting to be agreed and communicated
- Adequate gritting equipment and quantity of grit / salt available on site and office locations
- Areas cleared and gritted at regular intervals
- Suitable clothing and personal protection for cold and wet weather (sufficient layers) including suitable headgear and gloves
- Spare clothes in case one set of clothing gets wet
- Keep warm and dry
- Suitable footwear, particularly for gritting and snow clearing i.e. overshoes with spiked soles
- Facilities for provision of warm drinks, soup and warm food

# What measures can we take?

- Lights around site welfare and car parking areas and pedestrian access routes are in working order
- Correct task lighting is available and used
- Site accommodation suitably heated
- Heaters are checked on a regular basis and kept free of obstructions
- Diesel generators are positioned away from accommodation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning
- Suitable drying facilities available for wet clothing
- Keeping hands warm to maintain good blood circulation
- Frequent breaks to get blood flowing in the hands
- Properly maintained vibrating equipment and avoid using blunt tools.



# Snow clearing and gritting



- Areas that may require clearing and gritting:
  - Car parks
  - Pedestrian access routes/walkways
  - Site welfare facilities, steps and access
  - Security huts, steps and access



**NB: snow clearing or gritting must be limited to our own sites (unless being done under some formal arrangement) and not:**

- On the public highway or pathways
- On third party land.
- Consideration should also be given to sensitive environmental receptors when gritting etc