

*Getting
Ready for
Winter*

FORWARD
TOGETHER



- Although we are experiencing a heat wave right now, winter conditions are just around the corner
- Last year temperatures were below zero in early October and snow was quick to follow.
- Now is the time to prepare for winter conditions.

Vehicles

Frost and snow on windows can restrict visibility, thus making us unaware of hazards, people or other trucks and equipment in the area.

The following will help eliminate or reduce the risk:

- ✓ Using a Window scraper with brush to remove snow and ice
- ✓ Carrying extra window washer fluid in trucks
- ✓ Ensuring vehicle heaters are in good working order
- ✓ Allowing for ample time for windows to defrost before travel

During freeze/ thaw conditions, be aware of mud build up on the undersides of vehicles and ensure vehicles are adequately maintained to prevent damage.

Keep truck running boards and equipment accesses free from snow, ice or mud build up to reduce the risk of slips and falls when mounting

Winter Driving



Snow and ice build up on and around roadways can be very dangerous. Not only can it make the roadway slippery, but it can also cause hidden hazards and areas where vehicles can become stuck. Reduce the risk by:

- ✓ Increasing travelling distance between you and any vehicle or equipment you may be following
- ✓ Delineating ditches and other hazards that may be hidden by snow drifts with barricades
- ✓ Using caution on freshly back bladed roadways
- ✓ Be Aware of potential black ice
- ✓ Reduce travelling speeds

Walkways and access/ egress

Designated walkways clear of debris and materials should be established in work areas prior to snow fall. This allows for easy maintenance of walkways when winter conditions arrive.

Eliminate goat trails and short cuts in and around excavations. Also ensure that access/ egress paths into excavations are a reasonable grade. A steeper grade will increase the risk of slips and falls once the path is snow covered. Barricading and berming should be used to delienate walkways and prevent access to leading edges from pedestrians, vehicles and equipment.

Sand boxes will be placed in work locations so that access/ egress paths can be properly maintained.

If you notice a location that may require a sand stockpile, inform your supervisor.

Slip Prevention

- ✓ Always walk, never run
 - ✓ Remove ice and snow build up from walkways
 - ✓ Use sand to increase traction
 - ✓ Ensure your winter footwear has soft rubber soles and is kept clean
 - ✓ Traction aids will allow for a better grip when walking on snow and ice. Traction aids will be supplied by Ledcor and use will be mandatory.
 - ✓ Take short steps to maintain your center of balance over your feet.
 - ✓ When exiting your vehicle use three point contact
 - ✓ Only walk in designated areas and on designated surfaces
 - ✓ Ruts, holes and uneven ground should be leveled out if possible or identified to prevent hidden trip hazards.
- ✓ During summer conditions we lose focus on hazards presented to us while walking. We may become complacent. In summer, quickly jumping in the truck or walking quickly may not cause injury. Winter conditions require that we plan our path of travel and maintain focus to prevent typical early season injuries from summer behaviours. Be mindful, slow down and step cautiously.

Housekeeping

Small items such as plastic bags, excess flagging tape or small piles of lumber may seem like insignificant hazards but once these become snow covered the hazards become hidden and the risk of injury increases.

Plastics when frozen or covered with even small amounts of snow can be extremely slippery. Ensure when placing flagging, loose ends are removed and all flagging is disposed of once no longer needed. Plastic debris should be placed in construction waste bins as soon as possible.

Ensure all tools and materials are stored at the end of the shift and all cords are hung or indicated in case of over night snow fall.

Now is the time to continue to keep clean and tidy work areas so hidden hazards are eliminated.

Material and tool storage

- Store tools in job boxes or tool cribs at the end of shift. Avoid leaving tools out in the work areas overnight
- Avoid leaving tools in truck boxes. Keep truck boxes clean.
- Materials should be raised off the ground and stored on dunnage to reduce the amount of manual material handling required. This will also prevent materials from freezing to the ground.
- All laydown areas should be properly barricaded and identified to increase awareness of hidden hazards.
- Well organized laydown areas will also allow for easy snow removal in and around stored materials.
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Heating and Hoarding

Heating and hoardings will be required in certain areas around site. Some hazards and prevention include but are not limited to:

- ✗ Ice Build Up
- ✗ Fire
- ✗ Melted Tarps
- ✗ Carbon Monoxide
- ✗ Fuel Spill
- ✗ Equipment Damage
- ✓ Clear Icicles on an ongoing basis
- ✓ Keep a fire extinguisher within 20'
- ✓ Keep heaters away from hoardings and avoid piling combustible materials, like cardboard, near heaters
- ✓ Avoid Carbon Monoxide build up by using exhaust ducts when required
- ✓ Ensure spill trays are used
- ✓ Place in a suitable locations for fueling access

Environmental

Spill Remediation

- Manage / clean spills as they happen to prevent snow cover
- Place spill kits in convenient locations that are easy to access

Equipment Preparation

- Check all hoses and lines when servicing equipment for winter
- Replenish spill kits and place in all heavy equipment and trucks
- Clean and reinstall spill containment pans on all portable equipment
- Capture antifreeze and lubricants when changing and adding to reduce spills

Wildlife

- Wildlife will be looking for warm locations to hibernate or call home for the cold winter. Sea-cans doors must remain closed when not in use to prevent wildlife from seeking shelter in these locations. Ensure all sea can doors are closed at the end of shift.



Shorter Days

- Daylight hours are already reduced and will only be getting shorter.
- Ensure work locations have adequate lighting for early morning work
- If your area is not illuminated properly contact your supervisor.
- Light plants present several hazards during use and set up. Be aware of the following:
 - Only trained workers will set up light plants
 - Outriggers should be extended with leg pins secured. Be aware that freeze/thaw conditions may lead to unstable ground conditions. Check outriggers frequently for stability
 - Before working with light plants, identify all pinch points

Dressing for Winter Weather

- Chances are when you return from your next turn around you will require warmer clothes.
- When choosing warmer clothes think of the following:
 - Dress in layers
 - Choose fabrics that are breathable and wicking that allow body heat produced by increase activity to escape while still maintaining warmth
 - Fall rains are common so take into account wet conditions
 - Winter gloves and balaclavas will be available from the tool crib

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Winter conditions present specific hazards but proper preparation can ensure the risk is eliminated or controlled.

Identifying winter hazards on your FLHA cards and including these during stop and think moments will help to reduce injuries and incidents.