

Preventing Slips, Trips, and Vehicle Incidents in Winter Conditions

Why It Matters

- Winter weather creates serious site hazards
- Slips, trips, and falls are among the leading causes of workplace injuries during the winter months, while vehicle skids and poor visibility can lead to costly and dangerous accidents.
- A **Winter Site Safety Plan** helps keep everyone safe by ensuring we prepare, inspect, and respond to changing conditions.

Site Preparation and Planning

- **Pre-Winter Planning**
 - **Designate a snow and ice control team** responsible for monitoring conditions and maintaining walkways, parking lots, and site roads.
 - Stock up on ice melt, salt, sand, and shovels before the season starts.
 - Identify priority areas — such as entrances, access ramps, loading zones, stairs, and pedestrian crossings — for early treatment.
- **Daily Site Inspections**
 - Supervisors should perform morning inspections for slick areas, snow build-up, or drainage issues.
 - Document hazards and report them immediately for maintenance or salting.
 - Check that storm drains and runoff channels remain open to prevent refreezing.



Walking Safety – Stay on Your Feet

- Safe Walking Practices
 - Wear proper footwear- **Safety Managers have boot cleats available if needed.**
- Take short steps and walk slowly, especially on icy or wet surfaces.
- Keep hands out of pockets for better balance and to break a fall if needed.
- Use handrails on stairs and walkways whenever available.
- Watch for black ice, especially in shaded or newly cleared areas.

Site Maintenance for Pedestrian Safety

- Ensure walkways are cleared and salted before workers arrive.
- Ensure crosswalks and walking areas between parking lots and buildings remain cleared and treated with calcium during all business hours
- Use temporary mats, traction aids, or sand in high-traffic zones.
- Mark slippery areas with cones or signage until they're treated.

Driving and Equipment Movement

- Vehicle and Equipment Safety
- Inspect vehicles daily – check tires, lights, defrosters, and wipers.
- Clear snow and ice completely from windows, roofs, and lights before driving.



- Drive slowly and maintain extra stopping distance on icy roads.
- Avoid sudden turns or hard braking – steer gently to prevent skids.
- Be cautious of hidden ice under fresh snow and reduced visibility during snowfall.

Site Traffic Management

- Keep designated driving lanes and pedestrian walkways clearly marked.
- Use gravel or sand to improve traction in loading areas and slopes.
- When possible, restrict or reroute vehicle traffic during heavy snowfall or freezing rain.

Communication and Emergency Readiness

- Post and update weather alerts and site condition boards.
- Ensure all workers know how to report unsafe areas or request de-icing.
- Have an emergency plan for severe weather — identify shelter areas and safe evacuation routes.



Winter safety starts with preparation. Slow down, plan your path, and report hazards — every cleared walkway and salted driveway prevents an injury.

