



January 1, 2017

Winter Workplace Safety

Winter '16-17 has arrived. No doubt. We have so far seen record snow accumulations, along with deeply chilling temps. The storm patterns are unpredictable, and temps can vary widely from day to day, introducing a wide range of conditions, sometimes in combinations that can be challenging.

Road hazards; Give yourself plenty of travel time. Make sure your vehicle is cold weather ready. Give other motorists plenty of space, avoid driving in blind spots. Anticipate the possible movement of other vehicles as it relates to you. Make sure you have a fully stocked roadside emergency kit, and avoid cellphone and radio use while driving. If stranded, call for help and stay with your vehicle. If the vehicle is idling for heat, make sure the exhaust remains unobstructed.

Snow removal: Make sure you are properly dressed and equipped to perform the task. People with medical conditions that are exacerbated by physical stress/exertion, should avoid this activity. Don appropriate PPE, and use barriers to keep bystanders at a safe distance when using powered snow removal equipment. Watch power cord contact with snow, water, and wet pavement. When clearing roofs, ensure safe footing conditions exist before working at height, and wear fall protection. Be cautious of hazards that can be hidden by the snow such as trip hazards, skylights, etc. This clearing should be done without going onto the roof where possible. Protect yourself and others from falling ice and snow.

Clothing and cold stress: Dress appropriately for the work and the weather. Make sure your teams are trained in cold weather PPE and the warning signs of cold related injury. Stay hydrated with non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated drinks. Take warming breaks as needed, and watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia in yourself and those around you. Work in pairs or teams if possible, and supervisors should monitor field personnel throughout the course of the work.

Slips and falls: Wear footwear that is appropriate for the conditions. Watch your step, and take your time, especially around vehicles. A sizeable majority of slip/fall incidents occur while entering and exiting vehicles. Avoid carrying things that impair your balance, or block your view of the transit area. Report unsafe conditions to FO&M for remedy.

Downed power lines and trees: Assume any downed line is energized, and avoid it. The hazard may extend beyond the line itself if it is in contact with wet pavement, fences, or other conductive material. Wet or iced over tree limbs and debris can also conduct electricity. Report any downed power lines immediately. Be mindful of trees that show signs of stress from the weight of ice and snow, and try to avoid working or staging beneath them.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Monthly Occupational Safety Training

Location: Boise State University, Pioneer Hall 102
Date: January 18, 2017 - 2-3 p.m.

First Aid, CPR, AED

Location: Boise State University, Pioneer Hall 102
Date: January 25, 2017 - 1-5 p.m.

Contact EHSS for details.

FROM THE INTERNET



[Top 10 Red Cross Cold Weather Safety Tips](#)

Source: American Red Cross



[Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter](#)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SAFETY BRAIN TEASER

What's wrong with this picture?



Last month's teaser: There were many. Trip hazards (cords and file drawers), blocked paths, overloaded outlets, unattended space heater, unsafe resting configuration for paper cutter, paper near heat producing appliance, boxes potentially blocking sprinklers, chair and computer station are not ergonomic.

MANAGER'S CORNER

Leadership & Culture

Safety leadership and safety culture go hand-in-hand. Let us help you evolve your safety culture so you can embrace sustainable safety excellence.



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS...

Please feel free to contact us to provide feedback on the content of this newsletter, or to suggest topics that you would like to see addressed, or inquire about training you wish to participate in.

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