



Winter is finally nearing an end in most places, which means an increase in outdoor work activities is on the horizon. Clearing debris, resetting equipment, securing winter infrastructure, and getting campus spaces ready for spring and summer, are all ahead of us. Here are some tips to ensure we are managing the seasonal transition safely.

1. **Remember your PPE.** Make sure you are adequately protected when operating landscaping equipment and other machinery. Gloves, long pants, ear and eye protection are a few of the things we should make sure are available, and in good repair.
2. **Follow proper start-up procedures,** especially for equipment that hasn't been run since last fall. Check operating fluids, safety devices, and general equipment condition and function before deploying them to the field. Report any deficiencies through the appropriate channels.
3. **Check instructions and warning labels on chemicals,** especially those that are new to our inventory. Note the hazards, recommendations for PPE, and make sure your shop has access to the appropriate SDSs.
4. **Use sunscreen and insect repellent** as needed.
5. **Watch the temperature, and be vigilant for signs of heat stress** on your crews. Make sure everyone stays hydrated.
6. **Contact EHS&S** for any questions related to your work conditions and environment, or for any safety training that might be helpful.