

	WINTER SAFETY HAZARDS	Date:
	TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK	Presenter:

CONSTRUCTION

The crews are no strangers to winter safety hazards. We all recognize that winter hazards **don't** have to result in winter injuries.

Most of the construction tasks are the same, but now workers must contend with snow, ice, propane lines, heaters, and freezing temperatures.

STEPS TO SAFETY

Here are a few hazards workers face and the techniques they use to overcome them. These steps can help employees get through the season injury-free:

- The most common winter hazard is slippery surfaces. Using sand to cover icy work areas when needed. It recommends that work boots have good treads, like tires on your vehicle.
- Also important is to increase housekeeping efforts in winter. Supervisors/foreman should encourage crews to keep the job sites clean and organized to prepare for snow cover. Employees can easily injure an ankle or knee when they step on an object buried under the snow.

DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

Much of the equipment on construction sites burn fuel, and every combustible engine creates carbon monoxide gas (CO). In open environments, carbon monoxide rarely creates a safety hazard, but as workers work in enclosed work areas and cover windows in buildings to reduce heat loss, they also trap dangerous carbon monoxide. Ensuring that fresh air is continually circulating through all enclosed work areas is of critical significance.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

Fire is a higher risk in cold months too. Construction sites use many methods, some less safe than others, to combat the cold. Heaters and torches must be kept away from combustible material; the reverse is also true. Care must be taken to ensure fuel vapours are not collecting in enclosed spaces as well.

OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

The cold season adds many other issues to our days from scraping ice-covered windshields, traffic jams resulting from accidents, and dead car batteries etc. All of these can distract us from a focus on safety. Allow extra time each day to travel to work by leaving earlier in the morning. Keep in mind a little preventative maintenance to company or your vehicle will help it last longer with fewer mechanical problems.

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