

Toolbox Talk # 44

WINTER WEATHER

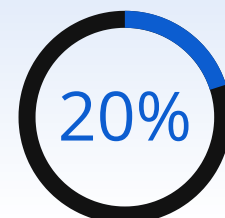


Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

Key Points

1. Cold temperatures increase the risk of hypothermia and frostbite, making proper protective clothing essential.
2. Ice and snow create slippery surfaces, leading to a higher risk of slips, trips, and falls.
3. Strong winter winds can reduce visibility and stability, making tasks like lifting and operating equipment more dangerous.
4. Workers exposed to extreme cold for long periods may experience numbness, reducing grip strength and coordination.
5. OSHA requires employers to provide training on recognizing cold stress symptoms and taking preventive measures.
6. Proper layering, insulated gloves, and waterproof boots help workers stay warm and maintain mobility in freezing conditions.
7. Snow buildup on scaffolding, ladders, and work surfaces increases the likelihood of structural instability and falls.
8. A well-planned winter safety program improves awareness, reduces accidents, and keeps workers safe in hazardous weather.

Over **20%** of all cold-related worker fatalities occur in construction



Top 5 winter weather hazards...

1. Hypothermia – Prolonged cold exposure lowers body temperature dangerously.
2. Frostbite – Freezing conditions damage skin and underlying tissues.
3. Slippery Surfaces – Ice and snow increase slip-and-fall risks.
4. Reduced Visibility – Snow, fog, and wind make hazards harder to see.
5. Cold Stress – Extreme temperatures cause fatigue and decreased coordination.



1. Am I wearing enough protective clothing for the cold?
2. Are icy or snowy surfaces creating slip hazards around me?
3. Am I showing any signs of cold stress or frostbite?
4. Is the weather affecting my ability to work safely?

Winter work needs extra care, protect yourself in frigid air.

Summary

Winter weather on construction sites poses risks like hypothermia, frostbite, and slips on icy surfaces. Cold stress can impair coordination and focus. Proper clothing, regular breaks, and ensuring safe walkways are essential to protect workers from cold-related injuries and maintain site safety during winter months.



OSHA requires employers to protect workers from winter weather hazards, including cold stress, slips, and equipment malfunctions. Employers should implement safety measures such as proper training, protective clothing, and safe work practices to prevent injuries and ensure worker well-being in extreme cold conditions.

Key Winter Weather Regulation

OSHA General Duty Clause (Section 5(a)(1))

This regulation requires employers to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards, including cold stress. Employers must take precautions like scheduling warm-up breaks, providing heated shelters, and ensuring workers wear appropriate clothing to prevent hypothermia, frostbite, and other cold-related illnesses.





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ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: