

Safety Meetings are important!

They: get your employees actively involved encourage safety awareness

help identify problems before they become accidents motivate employees to follow proper safety procedures

We are happy to provide you with a monthly topic for your agenda.

ROUTE TO:	
	General Manager
	Safety Coordinator
	Supervisor Dept
	Other
	Date of Meeting

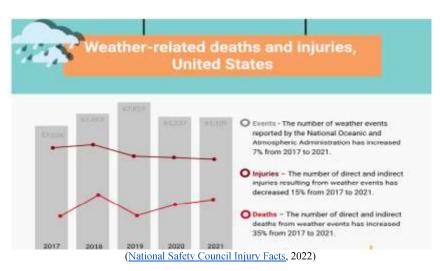
October 2023

DHS Update
Cold Weather Safety
Winter Working/ Walking Surfaces

DHS Update

As of July 28, 2023, DHS did not received funding from Congress for CFATS (Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards) so the program's authority to operate has expired. If CFATS is reauthorized, CISA will reschedule the inspection. Any company that had an inspection is encouraged to maintain security measures.

Cold Weather Update



The National Safety Council reported earlier this year that weather related deaths are up 35% since 2017. Winter weather caused the most deaths in 2021.



(National Safety Council Injury Facts, 2022)

Extreme cold and its effects can vary across different areas of the country; in regions that are not used to winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered "extreme cold" in other areas, the temperature must be in (or below) the single digits before people consider the weather "extreme." Any cold environment forces the body to work harder to maintain its temperature. Whenever temperatures drop below normal and wind speed increases, heat leaves the body more rapidly. Anyone working in a cold environment may be at risk of cold stress; especially workers that are required to work outdoors for extended periods of time.

Although OSHA does not have a specific standard that covers working in cold environments, employers have a responsibility to provide workers with employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards (OSHA General Duty Clause), including cold stress or hypothermia.





What to do:

- Train workers on how to prevent and recognize cold stress illnesses/injuries, how to apply first aid treatment and ways to reduce the risk of cold stress.
- Provide engineering controls; e.g. radiant heaters, work shields to break the wind, heated work environments.
- Use safe work practices:
 - Encourage employees to drink water or warm drinks. It is easy to become dehydrated in cold weather.
 - Schedule heavy work during the warmer part of the day.
 - Assign employees to tasks in pairs (buddy system) when working outdoors, so they can monitor each other for signs of cold stress.
 - Allow employees to interrupt their work, if they are extremely uncomfortable.
 - o Give workers frequent breaks in warm areas.
 - Acclimatize new workers and those returning after time away from work, by gradually increasing their workload, and allowing more frequent breaks in warm areas, as they build up a tolerance for working in the cold environment.

Note: See poster at end of this section to help you train your employees on Cold injuries.

Winter Working/Walking Surfaces



Slip and Fall injuries account for 15% of all work related injuries in the U.S. The risk of slip and fall injuries increase with the accumulation of snow and ice.

SIMA, the national nonprofit organization representing the snow removal industry, has some tips on safe winter walking.

• Wear proper footwear. Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and <u>have visible treads</u>. Avoid a smooth sole and opt for a heavy threaded shoe with a flat bottom, and use your toes to 'grip'.





- Accessorize to see and be seen. Wear sunglasses so that you can see in the reflective light of the snow. Also, wear a bright coat or scarf so that drivers can easily see you.
- **Plan ahead.** While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, walk consciously. Instead of only looking down, occasionally pause and scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.
- **Don't jump or slide**. Always focus on keeping your feet on the ground as much as possible while walking slowly. Sliding sounds like fun but can result in serious injury.
- **Be careful when you shift your weight.** When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall.

If you have any questions please contact me.

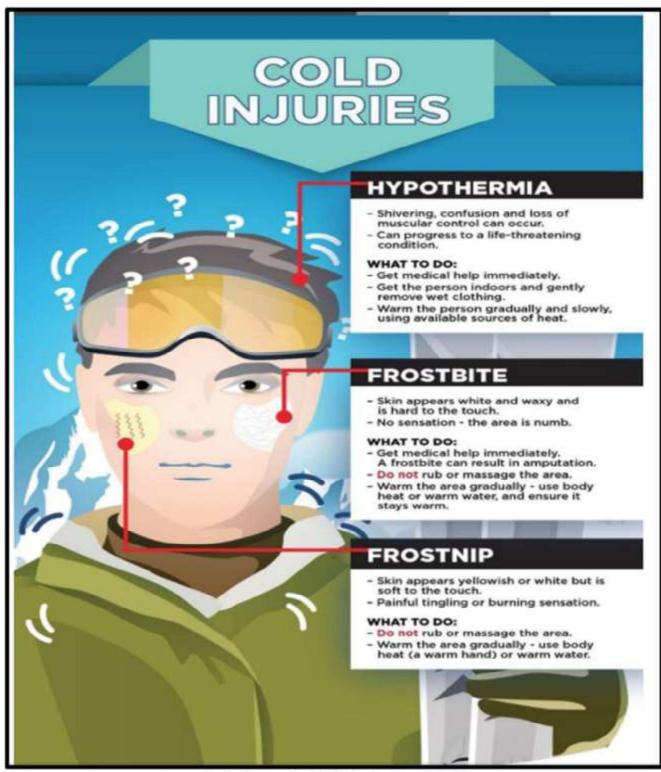
Marilyn Dempsey GAWDA Consultant: DHS, EPA, OSHA

Safety Dragons Workplace Consultants, LLC marilyn@safetydragons.com
940-999-8466
www.SafetyDragons.com









(Saskatchewan Health Authority, Dec 11, 2019)

