

Winter Safety Preparation at Your Organization

Winter is here!! Depending on your location, snow may be in your future. Winter can be a particularly hazardous time for organizations with outdoor workers, vehicle operators and drivers, and persons walking to and from buildings and parking lots.

Your organization should prepare for winter weather by conducting some last-minute checks and balances to reduce the likelihood and severity of winter-related injuries and illnesses. Ideas you may find useful at your organization include:



Image courtesy of OSHA Winter Weather Preparedness

- Inspect vehicles to ensure they are road-ready for winter conditions.
- Communicate the signs and symptoms of cold stress to outdoor workers.
- Ask employees to wear proper footwear when outside to prevent slips.
- Refine or create job hazard analyses (JHAs) for snow shoveling and other snow-removal tasks, identifying warm-up activities, frequent breaks, and proper lifting techniques as possible controls.
- Train employees on proper use of snow-blowing equipment (e.g., proper grounding, clearing jams, refueling, necessary guards).
- Assign responsibility to removal snow from rooftops and other overhanging areas to minimize the likelihood of structural collapse.
- Inspect gutters and drains to ensure they are free of debris to prevent snow, ice, or water build up.
- Remind employees to report slick walking-working surfaces utilizing your hazard reporting system.

Visit these resources for additional winter safety preparation tips:

OSHA:	https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather
NOAA:	https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smscx.org/>.