



Winter Weather Safety

The winter season introduces frigid temperatures and harsh weather conditions, posing numerous risks for individuals working in areas that experience these conditions. Even indoor workers face hazards, such as navigating treacherous commutes in inclement weather or icy parking lots to reach their workplaces. Recognizing and addressing these winter-related dangers is crucial.

STATISTICS ON WINTER DRIVING CRASHES

A significant challenge during the winter is hazardous driving conditions. The Department of Transportation reports that winter weather contributes to more than 192,000 injuries and 2,200 fatalities annually on roads. Outside of injury and loss of life, winter conditions result in millions of dollars in property damage incidents. Even seasoned drivers find it challenging to navigate vehicles safely amidst the hazards presented by winter weather.

RISKS OF SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

Slips, trips, and falls rank among the primary causes of workplace injuries and fatalities. According to OSHA, these incidents account for 15% of all accidental deaths, trailing only motor vehicle incidents in causing job-related fatalities. Snow, sleet, and ice significantly escalate the likelihood of slip, trip, and fall occurrences.

WINTER SAFETY GUIDELINES

When driving:

- Stay informed about upcoming snowstorms or icy conditions, and plan your travel accordingly. Avoid situations where you may become stranded on the roadside.
- If possible, refrain from driving in wintry conditions.

- Adopt a defensive driving approach. Keep a safe distance from other vehicles, allowing ample space for braking or steering to avoid accidents.
- Reduce your speed. Winter weather demands a decrease in speed, providing more reaction time and preventing loss of vehicle control.

WHEN WALKING ON ICY & SNOWY SURFACES:

- Eliminate trip hazards before the onset of snow or ice conditions to prevent accidents caused by obscured objects.
- Clear and treat parking lots and walkways with salt before the workday begins, ensuring safe pathways for workers.
- Exercise caution while walking on slippery surfaces by taking smaller steps to minimize the risk of losing balance.
- Wear appropriate footwear designed for winter conditions with solid treads on the soles.

---, "Winter Weather." Safety Talk Ideas, 23 Jan. 2023, www.safetyspeakideas.com/safetyspeak/winter-weather.



QUANDEL IS COMMITTED TO OUR NUMBER ONE CORE VALUE:
SAFETY: FIRST. LAST. ALWAYS!