



WINTER SLIP, TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – INJURY PREVENTION

November 2023

As the weather gets colder, the risk of slippery surfaces and icy conditions increases, making it crucial for all of us to be vigilant and proactive in preventing accidents. Let's go over some key safety points to keep everyone safe during the winter months.

1. Identify Winter Hazards:

- Snow and ice accumulation can create slippery conditions. Be aware of shaded areas where ice might persist longer.
- Snow and slush can hide tripping hazards such as cords, debris, or uneven surfaces.
- Icicles hanging from structures can fall and cause injury.

2. Proper Footwear:

- Wear appropriate, non-slip footwear with good traction.
- Consider using ice cleats or slip-resistant overshoes to improve stability in icy conditions.



3. Clearing and Salting:

- Keep walkways, stairways, and work areas free from snow and ice by shoveling, salting, or sanding.
- Report any slippery conditions to your supervisor immediately.

4. Safe Walking:

- Take shorter, slower steps when walking on icy surfaces.
- Use handrails when available and keep your hands out of your pockets for balance.



- Avoid running or sudden movements on slippery surfaces.

5. Safe Work Practices:

- Plan your work and make necessary adjustments to prevent slips, trips, and falls.
- Ensure that tools, equipment, and materials are stored safely, avoiding obstacles on the ground.
- Be cautious when climbing ladders or scaffolds in wintry conditions.



6. Keep Entryways Clean:

- Maintain clear pathways to and from buildings and construction sites.
- Use floor mats to reduce the amount of snow and water brought inside.

7. Be Prepared:

- Have an emergency plan in place in case of a slip, trip, or fall accident.

- Know the location of first aid kits and emergency contact information.

8. Reporting and Communication:

- Report unsafe conditions or near misses to your supervisor immediately.
- Encourage open communication about hazards within the team.

By being aware of the potential hazards and practicing safe behaviors during the winter, we can significantly reduce the risk of slip, trip, and fall accidents. Your safety is a top priority, and we all play a role in preventing these incidents. Always remember that safety is a team effort, and looking out for one another is essential. Stay safe this winter season and make sure to speak up if you notice any unsafe conditions.