

## Cold Weather Hazards

### Production:

Distribute the *Cold Stress Program* to all department heads.

Complete a *Cold Stress Risk Assessment* if required.

Provide a heated shelter or vehicle when the equivalent chill temperature is  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $19^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) or below.

Communicate all inclement weather alerts to the production.

### Department Heads:

Read and understand the production's *Cold Stress Program* and document the required worker training.

Ensure that supervisors are aware of any inclement weather warnings.

If the equivalent wind chill temperature reaches  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  provide a heated shelter or vehicle for workers.

Ensure that adequate equipment and materials are available to deal with freezing, snowy, wet, or windy conditions.

### Supervisors:

Use the *Cold Stress Safety Meeting* document to train workers in the signs and symptoms of cold stress.

Include current inclement weather concerns in safety talks.

Know the signs and symptoms of cold stress. When a worker is showing signs of cold stress, send them to first aid without delay.

Inspect the workplace for weather-related hazards. If possible, fix any known hazards. If a hazard can't be eliminated, orient workers to the hazard.

### Workers:

Wear waterproof and insulated footwear, a waterproof and insulated jacket with a hood, rain pants, gloves, and as many warm layers as possible.

If you're feeling cold report it to your supervisor.

When working in ice, mud, or snow, move at a pace appropriate for the conditions.

If weather conditions are creating a safety hazard, if possible, fix the hazard, or report it to a supervisor.

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### Ice:

Have ice melt products and sand available to spread on slippery areas at your workplace. When choosing de-icing products, look for the least conductive and most environmentally friendly product available. More information can be found at <https://www.actsafe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Assessment-of-Ice-Melt-Products-Report-PDF.pdf>

When de-icing, pay close attention to exterior steps, ladders, and ramps which tend to ice up before the ground or pavement does.

Prior to operating vehicles, clear off any snow, ensure that sheets of ice haven't formed on the roof, and wait for the windows to defrost before moving the vehicle. When entering and exiting vehicles, use available handles or supports to prevent slipping.

### Wet downs and rain effects:

Municipal permits may prohibit wet downs and rain effects below a certain temperature. In the city of Vancouver wet downs are permitted provided the temperature is at or above 2°C at the time of filming and in the 24 hours after filming. Be aware of the forecasted temperatures.

### Snow:

Have snow shovels available, keep pathways, stairs, and entrances shoveled clear. Be aware of any structures, temporary or permanent, that may be subject to damage from a heavy snow load.

### Carbon Monoxide:

Carbon monoxide levels can become dangerously high when using propane heaters in an enclosed space. Reduce the risk of carbon monoxide exposure by selecting propane heaters designed to be placed on the exterior of tents. If using propane heaters in the interior of a tent, then tent flaps must remain open.

If using propane heaters in tents, post this safety poster on the tent wall: <https://www.actsafe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Propane-Sign-11-x-17-Tabloid.jpg>

Signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, nausea, breathlessness, collapse, dizziness, and loss of consciousness. If you have symptoms, or see signs, of carbon monoxide poisoning evacuate the space immediately, inform your supervisor, and do not re-enter until it has been declared safe.

Do not allow vehicles to idle in, or adjacent to, poorly ventilated areas since exhaust fumes can accumulate in any void or space.

### High Winds:

Some of the hazards of high winds include flying and falling debris, or equipment. Ensure that everything is secured to withstand the forecasted winds.

**Aerial lifts:** There are limitations on operation in high winds, typically 40 Kmph, but this varies depending on the manufacturer. Adding lights or diffusion panels with a surface area over 64 sf. can reduce allowable windspeeds dramatically. Cribbing an aerial lift can reduce the allowable

windspeed to 24 Kmph. If you're mounting anything on the basket of a lift, or cribbing it, you need to have the lift supplements on hand to determine safe wind speeds.

**Trees:** When working around trees, or in the forest, be aware of the wind forecast. Locations in forested areas should have a visual survey done to determine if there are any dangerous trees or other hazards. In winds of 40 kph or more, hazardous areas should be avoided. If working in the forest in windy conditions all workers must wear head protection.

**Tents:** Ensure that tents have been adequately secured for high winds. Contact tent suppliers when winds are expected to be greater than 40 kph and ensure that they have provided instructions for securing, or have secured, all tents for forecasted winds.

### **Lighting:**

If the thunderclap from a lightning strike is less than 30 seconds away, seek shelter indoors. After the thunder ceases, wait thirty minutes before returning outdoors to resume work.

### **Work Trailers:**

Ensure that work trailers have adequate ventilation for the products being used. When the weather turns cold, natural ventilation from open doors and windows is often reduced and air quality may deteriorate.

### **Working Around Vehicles and Mobile Equipment:**

Visibility may be reduced in cold weather conditions such as rain, snow, and fog. Pay close attention to nearby vehicle traffic as you may not be seen, consider wearing higher visibility clothing.