

Depending on how low the temperatures get, and whether ice and snow are a concern on the job site, there are adjustments construction workers and heavy equipment operators can make to prevent incidents and injuries during the winter.

- Clean up the worksite before a snowfall to ensure hazards don't get buried by the snow. If it starts snowing during the workday, find and mark any hazards that might be along a driving or walking path on the job site.
- Check vehicles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the equipment is in safe operating condition. Clean, repair or replace anything not working properly prior to use or remove it from service.
- Allow vehicles and equipment to warm up, during cold weather, before use.
- All workers should be wearing high-visibility safety gear.
- Be aware of how your clothing affects your senses and adjust accordingly. Winter clothing should keep you warm but should not reduce your hearing, sight or "feel" for the equipment controls.
- Wear proper work boots with rough or heavy treads when working in wintry conditions to help prevent slips and falls.
- Sweep snow and ice from all parts of vehicles including windows, mirrors, lights, wheel wells and the hood.
- Ensure windows, mirrors and lights on heavy equipment, trucks and work vehicles are kept clean and clear.
- When inspecting heavy equipment, or when climbing in or out of a cab, wear insulated gloves in cold weather to ensure you don't touch frozen metal surfaces with bare hands, which can cause serious tissue damage.
- Be careful climbing into and out of any vehicle. Steps, grab holds, and grip plates may be slippery.



Discussion

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How does cold weather affect equipment operation?

How do icy conditions change your personal protective equipment choices?