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Weekly Safety Tip

Life Is All About Choices!®

January 8, 2018

SCI Safety Tip: Winter Weather Plan. Equip. Train.

To prevent injuries, illness, and fatalities during winter storms

Source: <http://www.osha.gov>



Winter weather presents hazards including slippery roads/surfaces, strong winds and environmental cold. Employers must prevent illnesses, injuries, or fatalities, by controlling these hazards in workplaces impacted by winter weather.

OSHA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) are working together on a public education effort aimed at improving the way people prepare for and respond to [severe weather](#). This page is designed to help businesses and their workers prepare for winter weather, and to provide information about hazards that workers may face during and after winter storms.

Preventing Slips on Snow and Ice

To prevent slips, trips, and falls, employers should clear snow and ice from walking surfaces, and spread deicer, as quickly as possible after a winter storm. When walking on snow or ice is unavoidable workers should be trained to:

Wear footwear that has good traction and insulation (e.g. insulated and water resistant boots or rubber over-shoes with good rubber treads)

SCI Safety Slogan



James Lehrke - SCI

Take short steps and walk at a slower pace to react quickly to changes in traction
 Preventing Falls When Removing Snow from Rooftops and Other Elevated Surfaces

OSHA’s Hazard Alert and winter weather webpages provide guidance to employers on how to prevent serious injuries and fatalities. Employers should consider options to avoid working on roofs or elevated heights, plan ahead for safe snow removal and must:



- Provide required fall protection and training when working on the roof or elevated heights
- Ensure ladders are used safely (e.g. clearing snow and ice from surfaces)
- Use extreme caution when working near power lines.
- Prevent harmful exposure to cold temperatures and physical exertion

SCI OSHA News: Preventing backover incidents (Part 2)

Source: <http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com>

By: Alan Ferguson

Date: December 19, 2017

Spot on

So what can organizations and employees do until a federal regulation is enacted, if ever?

A series of best practices can be employed, experts say, because the ubiquitous backup alarms can get tuned out by workers or drowned out by a noisy jobsite.

One practice is using a well-trained spotter, someone who can look out for other vehicles, workers on foot or pedestrians. That job, however, also can prove dangerous because those employees can get hit by backing trucks or other equipment.

OSHA recommends the following best practices:

- Ensure spotters and drivers coordinate on hand signals.
- Drivers should remain in visual contact with a spotter while backing and should stop immediately if they lose visual contact.
- Spotters should not be given additional duties, and they should avoid using distracting items such as cellphones or headphones.
- Spotters should wear high-visibility gear, especially when working at night.



Bruce Drewes, owner and instructional consultant at Boise, ID-based 3T Group and master instructor with the Washington-based American Road and Transportation Builders Association, said he teaches spotters to not walk backward while working because they can trip, putting them in a potentially dangerous or deadly situation.

- He tells spotters that they need to stand just beyond where the vehicle will stop backing up. If the vehicle is changing directions, such as in a three-point turn, a spotter needs to go to the point where the direction change will occur, then reposition him or herself.
- Drewes advises spotters to stay out of the operating area of a vehicle unless they get physical confirmation and permission from the driver. He also recommends that spotters use a hands-free radio, if they can, and that the driver put the vehicle in park if anyone approaches it.



Remember How Flu Spreads

Person to Person

People with flu can spread it to others up to about 6 feet away. Most experts think that flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose.

To avoid this, people should stay away from sick people and stay home if sick. It also is important to wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Linens, eating utensils, and dishes belonging to those who are sick should not be shared without washing thoroughly first. Eating utensils can be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with water and soap and do not need to be cleaned separately. Further, frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at home, work and school, especially if someone is ill.

The Flu Is Contagious

Most healthy adults may be able to infect other people beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Children may pass the virus for longer than 7 days. Symptoms start 1 to 4 days after the virus enters the body. That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Some people can be infected with the flu virus but have no symptoms. During this time, those persons may still spread the virus to others.

See how to prevent the spread of flu next week

- “I see it happen all the time, where someone looks over in [the driver’s] direction and they think, ‘Oh, hey, he sees me,’” Drewes said. “He moves in the area of that piece of equipment and the operator never saw him.”
- In control
- Why not limit how often vehicles or equipment travel in reverse? That’s what an internal traffic control plan tries to accomplish. ITCPs also attempt to keep workers on foot out of areas where vehicles are traveling, and vice versa.
- Drewes said the initial development of an ITCP should include any groups or individuals who are going to be in the work zone, from subcontractors to state agencies to the company that services the portable toilets.
- David Fosbroke, statistician at NIOSH, said an ITCP is a “constantly changing plan that adjusts as work operations change.”

When modifications are made at the worksite, the ITCP needs to be reconfigured quickly, and workers need to be informed of the changes, Drewes said, adding that the cost of educating workers about ITCPs has proved difficult at times because it’s an extra expense. ARTBA and the Federal Highway Administration provide grants for free training, but Drewes said he’s concerned about future funding.

Despite concerns about cost, the awareness of ITCPs and the need for them continues to grow, Drewes said.

Continued next week

OSHA penalty structure changed effective January 2, 2018.

	2017 Penalties	2018 Penalties
Other than Serious violations:	\$12,675	\$12,934
Serious violations:	\$12,675	\$12,934
Repeat violations:	\$126,749	\$129,336
Willful violations:	\$126,749	\$129,336
Failure to abate (per day):	\$12,675	\$12,934

We’d always like your feedback. Let us know what articles you’d like to see!

In Loving Memory...
Jessica, Kristin and Nick

