

CBO: What precautions must employers take to ensure jobsites are safe in winter?

CB: Consider putting a snow-and-ice management plan in walkways, to team members and include backup members so Think about where you are working, the type of access to example, if workers are parking in a designated lot, is there a plan for clearing the snow or do you need to identify a backup location for everyone in the event of snow accumulation? It's also important to identify areas within the site that are protected from the elements and heated so workers can take

CBO: How should contractors take special care of their vehicles and heavy equipment in the cold?

CB: If you're using any heavy equipment outdoors, work with the vendor or manufacturer to understand safe use, storage, and maintenance during winter months and to uncover equipment needs to be plugged in, can this be done without creating a hazard to an employee, plow, or snowblower? As part of the snow management plan, you will want to make sure that equipment operators are aware of any ground hazards, such as electrical conduits, hydrants, or anchor bolts, important to review how to safely access equipment and vehicles during colder months to avoid slip-and-fall injuries

Providing workers with education and training on winter-weather driving best practices both on and off jobsites can help them travel safely to work and return home at the end of

CBO: How can foremen, project managers, and fleet managers keep a project on schedule through winter weather events?

CB: Understanding the phases of construction, material installation, and potential winter weather effects is critical for project management staff who work in regions with colder

For example, do cold temperatures stop materials from temperatures? Since weather can affect timing, keep it in mind

You can also consider using a winter-weather preparedness checklist, which helps ensure that you have the appropriate resources needed to safely construct the project during

Communication between the project management team, foremen, and superintendents is also critical so that any changes to the schedule, site access, or resources are known

With the increase of newer construction methods like modular and prefabricated construction, the tradespeople may be able thus decrease the amount of time and workers it takes to

CBO: What are the most common complications from cold weather on a construction project?

CB: From a health and safety standpoint, there is the potential for frostbite and hypothermia while working outdoors during of the treatments can be critical to preventing potential

Some other complications might include snow and ice buildup around the exterior of the site and in areas of the project that are exposed to the elements, such as roofs and open-air

Have a plan to remove snow in areas where workers have access, and treat the walking surfaces with a sand or salt designating team members or contractors for snow removal,

so that you are not scrambling to coordinate cleanup the

It's also important for contractors to think about access to temporary heat, which may require installation by a licensed hazards is a key consideration when planning for temporary

Finally, frozen pipes are also a concern wherever there is active

That's why it's critical to have a site-protection plan in place

active water pipes without temporary or permanent heating

CBO: Is there anything you'd like to add?

About the Author

About the Article

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