



Winter working: Simple guidance for employees

	Hazards	Preventions
Lighting	Early morning and evening the natural light is poor, where temporary lighting is provided there may still be areas that are in shadow or where the level of light varies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be aware of shadowy areas which may hide difficult underfoot conditions or low-level hazards• Stop your task and report any issues you have with the standard of lighting in your working area• Use temporary lighting where appropriate
Icy conditions	The ground as well as any working platform surface e.g., Scaffolding, Mobile Towers and MEWP's can become slippery with ice, rain or mud.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not rush around site, take time and be careful• Wear appropriate footwear for the conditions and ensure that the soles are in good condition• Keep to designated walkways, do not take short cuts
Loose materials and high winds	High winds can contribute to hazards on site, blowing materials around the site and off high-level working platforms and particularly during lifting operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never be tempted to carry out lifting operations in high or gusting winds• Always fix or tie down loose items in windy conditions• Dispose of wrappings and other debris properly to prevent them being blown around on or off site
Clothing	Some clothing and gloves could get wet very quickly when handling items in the rain leading to high levels of wind chill. Insufficient layering of clothing can also lead to health-related problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a number of different layers to keep in more body heat• All rubber and plastic boots should be warmly lined or be worn with thick insoles or thick socks• Fully waterproof clothing comprising hat, jacket and trousers is essential for work in the rain



<p>Mobile Plant</p>	<p>Iced steps and frozen door handles are commonly found on machinery during Winter, leading to an increased chance of slips and trips. Vision may also be impacted by frosted windscreens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure windscreens and windows are fully cleared before starting work • Plant Operators must take care, reducing speed to suit the weather conditions
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to freeze.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all water services are suitably lagged to prevent them from freezing / bursting • Ensure that there is adequate heating within accommodation
<p>Driving</p>	<p>Reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces make winter driving particularly hazardous. The biggest single danger to any driver is being unable to see properly. Braking on an icy or snow covered bend is extremely dangerous. The centrifugal force will continue to pull you outwards and the wheels will not grip very well. This could cause your vehicle to spin. During wintry weather, road surfaces become frost and ice covered, but not always uniformly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front in poor conditions. • Avoid harsh braking and acceleration. • Check tyres regularly and keep them properly inflated • Keep the windscreen, side and rear windows clean and the washer bottle filled with screen wash. • Keep your vehicle well ventilated. • Check that ALL your lights are clean and working. • Keep a set of emergency supplies in your vehicle at all times • If you decide to travel in very bad weather, let someone know where you are going and what time you 'hope' to arrive <p>KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN</p>



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