

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



Winter Weather Warning

With the nights drawing in, it is clear to see that winter is unfortunately coming. This weather brings with it more risks and hazards which we all need to be aware of.

Hazards/Risks:

- Workers exposed to cold, wet conditions for prolonged periods of time.
- Slip and trip hazards caused by rain water, ice, accumulation of fallen leaves, etc.
- High winds and stormy conditions.
- Travelling to and from work and working in the dark.
- Driving in poor weather conditions with the risk of vehicles breaking down.
- Operating plant and machinery in cold and wet conditions.
- Restriction of movement due to additional clothing being worn and the cold.
- Potential disruptions to transport infrastructure due to poor weather.



Key messages:

- Consider a briefing with your team to go through the site specific risks.
- Check weather reports when planning works and consider emergency arrangements.
- Ensure that there is a regime for checking site at the start and end of shift.
- Observe wind restrictions when using plant.
- Look around for potential hazards and keep an eye on walkways, platforms, scaffolds, stairs and ladders.
- Check your PPE: is it sufficient and in good condition?
- If possible, perform work during the warmest part of the day and avoid lone working.
- Take frequent short breaks in warm, dry areas, have warm drinks and ensure your calorie intake is sufficient to maintain energy levels
- Keep your mobile charged up and tell someone of your travel plans and when you expect to arrive.
- Check local transport system in advance of travelling.
- Check your vehicle to ensure it is well maintained including a winter safety kit e.g. HiViz tabard or jacket, torch, scraper, de-icer, warning triangle, warm clothes and a shovel.
- If cycling, get a routine bike maintenance check and ensure you and your bike are visible to other road users.
- If walking in bad conditions wear appropriate footwear and clothing and consider taking a torch.
- **Be Safe - Be Seen**

