

Don't slip into winter

Know your role – supervisors and workers

Did you know?

- Between October and December, Alberta Workers' Compensation Board accepts approximately 3,500 claims related to slips, trips and falls.

Everyone has a role

Everyone plays a role in reducing workplace incidents. Here are some simple steps to help reduce or prevent the numbers of slips, trips and falls during winter.

Supervisors

- Prepare a winter maintenance plan. Include indoor and outdoor activities such as snow removal and cleaning floors.
- Prepare equipment and supplies (e.g. ice melter) in advance of the change in the seasons.
- Consider the history of changes in the worksite. Does ice build up in predictable places? Where does snow melt when coming indoors?
- Review your company's incidents and potentially serious incidents and discuss with workers to mitigate in the coming season. Discuss and share stories of slip injuries on your work sites.
- Provide warning signs for slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Discuss slip hazards with workers at meetings.
- Empower workers to take the time needed to walk carefully around the worksite.

Workers

- Wear appropriate footwear and traction aids.
- Avoid distracted walking. Stay focused on moving through the worksite, especially on slippery surfaces and transition areas (e.g. doorways).
- Be aware of slipping hazards that change through the day (e.g., where ice melts or re-freezes through the day).
- When you identify a trouble spot, try to remedy the issue (e.g. apply ice melt to ice) and report it to your supervisor.
- Walk like a penguin when on slippery surfaces and keep your hands free.
- Use traction aids and take time to move safely around the work site and your vehicle.
- Maintain three-point contact when getting in and out of vehicles.

Shop Talk for Supervisors

- Review daily/weekly changing conditions and how they impact the different work surfaces (e.g. note if new mats have been installed at entryways in preparation for winter).
- Discuss with workers what can be done to prevent a slip, and challenge workers to find other ways to prevent slips.
- Determine steps that can be taken to reduce chances of slips through the winter.

© 2020 Government of Alberta This material is for information only. The information provided in this material is solely for the user's information and convenience and, while thought to be accurate and functional, it is provided without warranty of any kind. The Crown, its agents, employees or contractors will not be liable to you for any damages, direct or indirect, arising out of your use of the information contained in this material. If in doubt with respect to any information contained within this material, or for confirmation of legal requirements, please refer to the current edition of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code or other applicable legislation. Further, if there is any inconsistency or conflict between any of the information contained in this material and the applicable legislative requirement, the legislative requirement shall prevail. This material is current to November 2020. The law is constantly changing with new legislation, amendments to existing legislation, and decisions from the courts. It is important that you keep yourself informed of the current law. This material may be used, reproduced, stored or transmitted for non-commercial purposes. The source of this material must be acknowledged when publishing or issuing it to others. This material is not to be used, reproduced, stored or transmitted for commercial purposes without written permission from the Government of Alberta.