



Safety Alert

Winter Preparedness for Businesses



Let's make this work for everyone®

Even in warmer climates, winter can bring unexpected changes in weather. It's important for businesses to be prepared for these changes to ensure the safety and comfort of their employees and customers. Here are some tips for winter preparedness:

- 1. Monitor Weather Forecasts:** While snow and ice may not be a concern, winter can still bring cold temperatures, rain, and wind. Stay informed about the local weather forecast and plan accordingly. Even before the weather strikes, traffic could be an issue as schools and other businesses dismiss early. Don't just send people home. Make the time to communicate safe practices and encourage using defensive driving techniques.
- 2. Maintain Building Infrastructure:** Ensure that your business's heating system is in good working order before the cold weather arrives. Check for drafts and insulate doors and windows if necessary.
- 3. Prepare for Power Outages:** Winter storms can sometimes lead to power outages. Have a plan in place for such situations, including having backup power sources and emergency lighting. Make sure contingencies include expected processes for dealing with non-routine tasks that can be typical during power outages or other disruptions.
- 4. Ensure Employee Comfort:** If employees are uncomfortable, productivity can suffer. Keep the workplace warm and consider flexible work arrangements during particularly cold periods. Make certain that comfort solutions do not add to safety hazards (loose clothing, flammable/combustible heaters, carbon monoxide in enclosed spaces, etc.).
- 5. Communicate with Employees:** Keep employees informed about any potential weather-related issues that could affect their work or commute. Encourage them to dress warmly and to take precautions when driving in wet or windy conditions.
- 6. Check Insurance Coverage:** Review your business insurance policies to ensure you're covered for any potential winter-related damages or business interruptions.



Remember, even in warmer climates, it's better to be prepared for winter. A little planning can go a long way in ensuring the safety and continuity of your business during the colder months. For more information on winter workplace safety, please contact your Strategic Comp Loss Prevention Consultant.

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