



## Safety Alert

# Winter Safety



Let's make this work for everyone®

Winter is coming, and with the change in temperatures comes a new set of workplace safety considerations. Seasonal hazards may include slippery roads and surfaces, frigid temperatures, temporary staffing issues and mental health challenges. Strategic Comp can help provide resources for you and your employees to identify potential hazards, prepare for winter weather, and stop seasonal incidents and accidents in their tracks.

### What are some winter safety challenges that may impact a business?

- Holiday shutdowns, seasonal hires, and special maintenance projects may lead to a higher than typical frequency of **non-routine tasks**.
- Wet and/or icy conditions mean a higher risk of slips, trips and falls. In fact, over the past three years Strategic Comp customers have averaged more than double the number of **slips, trips and falls** in the winter months than any other season.
- Just as heat stress is a summer issue, so is **cold stress** in the winter.
- Although employers cannot control roadway conditions, they can promote **safe winter driving behaviors** for both work and personal vehicles.
- Long winters can have several **psychological impacts** on individuals, including seasonal depression, cabin fever, increased stress levels and more.

### What can my company do?

- Starting in the early fall months, get the management team together and discuss how the upcoming winter will impact your operations. Develop a plan to make sure that your company is prepared to handle the challenges that winter will present.
- Hold supervisors accountable for exposures and controls. They are in direct contact with employees and can have the biggest impact. Keep them informed and involved.
- Get your supervisors together prior to the beginning of winter to help prepare them to handle seasonal challenges.
- Ensure your supervisors are engaged in proactive safety activities (such as training, inspections, and observations) throughout the winter to keep the safety culture strong.



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- Develop a special short-term incentive program to motivate and reward employees to work safely during the winter months.
- Pre-plan all special maintenance projects and non-routine tasks to make sure there is a safety plan developed to protect employees from being injured.

### Strategic Comp is here to help!

- Contact your Strategic Comp Loss Prevention Consultant or Regional Manager if you would like assistance in developing a winter safety plan or help with pre-planning non-routine tasks.
- Frequent Safety Alerts will be distributed to all customers before and during the winter months to keep awareness levels elevated.

Year-round proactive efforts and habits are vital in ensuring the safety and well-being of yourself, your coworkers and your loved ones. Stay safe and enjoy the winter season responsibly!



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