



Safety Alert

Non-Routine Tasks in the Winter



Let's make this work for everyone®

Non-routine tasks (NRTs) are often characterized as job tasks that are performed on an “infrequent” basis in the workplace. Although these job tasks are not performed often, their hazards may be easily overlooked, resulting in serious injury or even death. During winter, many employees may face NRTs such as:

- Snow removal, whether on surfaces, structures, or roof tops.
- Cleaning and/or housekeeping tasks that may occur with possible slower business operations.
- Driving in snowy or icy conditions.
- Using temporary heating sources.
- Filling in on another production line or job due to vacations, weather, or coworkers calling out sick.

What can you do?

- Start by actively identifying NRTs in your workplace. Use your safety committee to delegate tasks or start a focus group. Have your supervisors work with their employees to identify tasks that may be considered “non-routine” in their work areas.
- Conduct a hazard assessment (such as a “JSA”) and identify the proper safety controls for each “non-routine” task.
- Create a formal, written safety procedure and make sure that all employees are properly trained prior to starting the work task.
- As a best practice, require a pre-startup meeting for a final review of the job task and ensure that all safety controls are in place (e.g., machine safeguarding, confined space, fall protection, PPE).
- Ensure that all employees are held accountable in maintaining and upholding safety policies and procedures while performing the job task.

Serious injuries and death can occur when we don't take time to properly assess risk and implement the necessary safety controls in the workplace. No matter the frequency of the task or level of urgency, all safety policies must be followed to help prevent incidents from occurring. If safety is important, there is always time to spend to develop a plan of action. For more information on non-routine tasks and workplace safety, please contact your Strategic Comp Loss Prevention Consultant.



Loss control consultation services are provided to our insureds by employees of the Strategic Comp Division of Great American Insurance Company (“GAI”) in conjunction with a workers’ compensation and employers liability insurance policy provided by one of GAI’s insurance subsidiaries. As stated in Part Six (A) of that policy, we do not provide safety inspections and we do not undertake a duty to provide for the health or safety of our insureds’ employees or the public. We do not warrant that all potential hazards and conditions have been evaluated and identified, or that they are safely controlled. We also do not warrant that our insureds’ workplaces are safe or healthful or that they comply with laws, regulations, codes or standards. The liability of GAI (and/or its affiliated subsidiaries) is limited to the terms, limits, and conditions of the insurance policies that it writes. GAI assumes no liability beyond that provided under the terms, limits, and conditions of the policies it has issued, when engaging in loss control consultation services.

© 2024 Great American Insurance Company, 301 E. Fourth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. All rights reserved. 5745-STC-11 (10/24)