



Safety Alert

Winter Weather Preparedness



Let's make this work for everyone®

When it comes to winter weather, the first step in preparing for potential winter hazards is to assess your risks and what could potentially impact your business. Consider the following:

- Covid and other contagious illnesses
- Unsafe driving conditions
- Road closures
- Slip, trip and fall injuries
- Outdoor workers
- Local school and business delays/closings
- Structural stress/damage
- Power system outages
- Carbon monoxide exposure
- Other impacts specific to your business

Then, determine who is responsible for:

- Monitoring the weather during a bad winter storm
- Clearing parking lots and sidewalks of ice and snow
- Creating a winter plan identifying responsibilities for all types of events and exposures

Before the storm, be sure to winterize your business:

- Inspect carbon monoxide detectors
- Confirm roof integrity
- Plan evacuation routes and meeting points
- Add pipe insulation to protect plumbing and prevent frozen pipes
- Test heaters, thermostats and lighting systems
- Develop a power outage plan
- Create an emergency communication plan, including contact information for all employees, vendors and clients
- Ensure contact information for emergency services is accurate and easily accessible, including:
 - HVAC contractor
 - Plumber
 - Fire department
 - Insurance agent
 - Building owner

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Weather considerations

It's important to know and understand weather terms that you may hear in winter forecasts:

Winter Weather Advisory

This indicates that weather conditions could cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, particularly to vehicle operators.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet, or a blizzard. Winter storm watches are usually issued 12-48 hours before the beginning of a winter storm.

Winter Storm Warning

These indicate that a storm is in or entering the area. Take action and implement your winter safety preparations.

Blizzard Warning

Be prepared for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more combined with falling or blowing snow, creating near-zero visibility.

Cold Weather Advisory

Issued when air and/or wind chill temperatures are expected to be a significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.

Extreme Cold Warning

Issued when air and/or wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.

For more information on workplace safety, please contact your Strategic Comp Loss Prevention Consultant.

