

Longshore Safety Tip

January - 2016

WINTER STORM PRECAUTIONS

Longshore employees working in the rain face additional hazards. Poor visibility and slippery surfaces create an opportunity for an injury.

Safe work practices that will help prevent accidents and injuries when working in the rain:

Make sure that you can be seen. If you are working in areas with vehicular or crane traffic, always wear a bright-colored, approved reflective vest. Walk in marked or designated walkways. Make eye-contact with vehicle operators.

Wear appropriate safety footwear. The top of the boot or shoe should be inside the pant leg (as opposed to tucking the pant leg into the safety shoe).

Since hard hats, hoods or rain gear narrow your range of vision, make it a point to turn your head to look both ways and above and below you when wearing a hood in the rain.

Wear appropriate rain gear. If you are cold and wet, you are likely concentrating more on how miserable you are than the work at hand.

Move cautiously, especially when climbing ladders or entering equipment, in order to prevent slipping or falling.

Use the correct equipment. Do not use electrical tools and equipment that are not specifically rated for outdoor use when working in the rain.



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SAFE DRIVING IN THE RAIN

VEHICLE INSPECTION DRIVE CAUTIOUS BACK OFF

Inspect your vehicle, including wipers, prior to operating.

Vision and Handling are affected when driving in the rain. Drive at a safe speed for the conditions present, and use caution at intersections and blind corners.

Back off. Provide extra distance from the vehicle in front of you.

COLD STRESS

Plan ahead. Know the weather conditions before you leave for work.



SAFETY TIPS

Report small problems so they don't turn into bigger problems.

Environmental cold can affect any worker exposed to cold air temperatures and puts workers at risk of cold stress. Wetness or dampness, even from body sweat, also facilitates heat loss from the body. Types of cold stress include: trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia.

Dressing properly is extremely important to preventing cold stress. The type of fabric worn also makes a difference. Cotton loses its insulation value when it becomes wet. Wool, silk and most synthetics, on the other hand, retain their insulation even when wet.

Wear at least three layers of loose fitting clothing. Layering provides better insulation.

When a hard hat is not required, wear a hat or hood to help keep your whole body warmer. Hats reduce the amount of body heat that escapes from your head.

Keep extra clothing in your car in case you get wet and need to change.



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