

# Toolbox Talk

## 74. Winter Working



### What?

- Winter months bring additional challenges to keeping safe. Cold weather and shorter periods of daylight mean there is more potential for accidents to happen
- It means that more consideration needs to be given to lighting standards and providing additional lighting where necessary, and to think about heating arrangements to maintain suitable temperatures and to provide localised heating where appropriate

### Why?

In winter time, certain factors increase the number of incidents that can happen on site. These can be:

- Reduced daylight
- Cold
- Rain
- Snow / Ice
- Strong winds



Slips on snow and ice can be very painful resulting in time off work. Handling objects with very large surface areas can be dangerous in strong winds especially if you are working at height

### Do



- ✓ Check weather forecast before working outside
- ✓ Carry out specific risk assessments taking account of weather conditions
- Wear warm and waterproof PPE
- ✓ Take plenty of hot drinks and food
- ✓ Shelter from the weather when on breaks
- ✓ Be more vigilant when working in adverse weather conditions
- ✓ Be particularly careful when working at height
- ✓ Take care when using temporary heaters especially when using gas

### Don't



- ✗ Work if adverse weather puts you at risk i.e. work at height in strong winds
- ✗ Ignore signs of cold since hypothermia can set in quickly
- ✗ Forget to wear warm clothes in cold conditions, or weather-proof clothes in wet conditions



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