

Winter and the Workplace

Tips and information for employers and staff

As Alberta enters the winter months, it's time for your workplace to turn it's attention to safety for the season. The Alberta Government states while Occupational Health and Safety legislation does not specifically address working in cold weather, employers are obligated

to protect workers and other individuals from potential hazards. Some workplace tips from OHS include:

- Keep walks, entryways and loading docks clear of water, ice and snow. Keep shovels and de-icer or salt near these areas.
- Make sure parking lots are plowed, sanded and well lit.
- Keep an eye on the weather forecast. Employers can consider letting staff leave early if a storm is imminent, or offer working from home on days with severe weather.
- Remember working from heights poses a higher risk in winter conditions.
- Shield works from drafts and wind.
- Dress appropriately and always have a hat and gloves on hand. Wear insulated, waterproof footwear.



Winter Driving Tips

Follow these tips to make sure when travelling in winter conditions, safety is a priority:

- Are your tires in good shape? Do you have a full tank?
- Have you checked your wipers and filled your washer fluid?
- Is your emergency kit stocked? Do you have triangles, a high-vis vest and a heat source?
- Do you have a snow brush, shovel, gloves and flashlight with batteries?
- Do you have water and some snacks like protein bars?



Slips, Trips and Falls

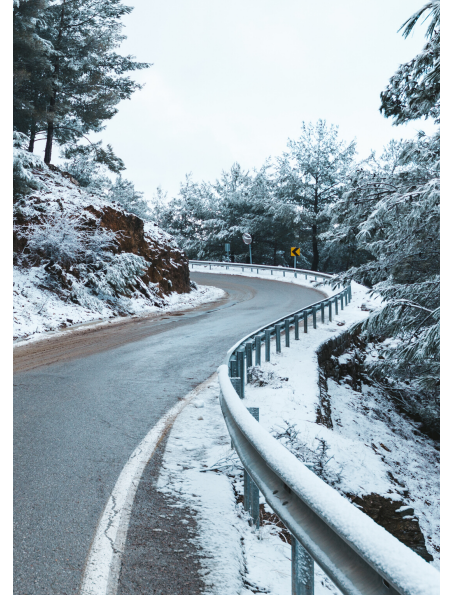
Slips, trips and falls is one of the top three workplace incidents submitted as WCB claims. Be sure to inform your staff of safe practices, and consider the following online courses:

- Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls
- Slips & Trips for Construction
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Slips, Trips and Falls: Hazard Perception Challenge

Practicing responsible journey management

When traveling for work, or with your family, it's important to ensure you're practicing responsible journey management.

- Are you feeling physically fit, and well enough to travel?
- If the weather is inclement, is traveling necessary at all?
- Have you checked your routes, or utilized sites such as Alberta 511 or Environment Canada?
- Have you communicated your plans with your employer or manager? If traveling for personal reasons, have you communicated your plans with family or friends?
- Once you've reached your destination safely, have you reached out to your employer/family to let them know you've arrived safely?



Commercial vehicles in winter: be aware

Tips from the Alberta Government concerning commercial vehicles in the winter season include:

- Be aware of snow and ice coming off commercial vehicles. This can be dangerous to other vehicles and could result in incidents, insurance claims or fines.
- Drivers, ensure snow and ice removal is included in your pre-trip inspection prior to traveling.

Contact information:

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Alberta Motor Transport Association



Alberta Motor Transport Association



Resources

- For more information on driving for work, read OHS's Snow and Ice on Commercial Vehicles (GS011), the CCOSH fact sheet "Driving Tips - Winter"
- Visit Alberta 511 for the latest in travel advisories and route maps
- Follow @amta_ca on Twitter for weather and highway condition updates

