

SAFETY BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 2022

TOPIC: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR COLD WEATHER

Safety Tips

Employers and supervisors should review cold-weather safety procedures with their employees before and throughout the winter months. Often workers put themselves in danger when they forget to take the necessary precautions needed to work in cold weather. If supervisors remind employees about the cold, they are more likely to think about it and take appropriate action.

The personal protective equipment (PPE) standard for general industry describes employers' obligation to provide protection for virtually all occupational hazards, including temperature extremes. When working in cold weather, making sure you wear good protective clothing is the best way to help guarantee your safety.

BRAVE THE ELEMENTS SAFELY

- ❑ **FOLLOW BODY BASICS.** One of the secrets to winter warmth is layering. Thermal long underwear provides a snug-fitting layer against the skin and wicks perspiration away from it. For outerwear, wind and moisture resistance are essential for workers' comfort. Jackets made with a Gore-Tex shell provide excellent protection from cold weather, as well as comfort.
- ❑ **START AT THE BOTTOM.** For feet, wool or wool blend socks are better for warmth than cotton and keep your feet drier. For particularly cold conditions, put wool socks over a lightweight fabric such as polypropylene.

Heavy-duty insulated boots are a good bet for the cold. Some are reinforced with steel toes for work use, and many styles contain felt liners that you can pull out to dry. Waterproof boots can prevent frostbite in wet conditions. However, in cold, dry conditions they can trap perspiration and increase the chance of injury.

- ❑ **HANDY WAYS TO COMBAT COLD.** Hands need as much protection as feet, even though the protection must occasionally come off during the course of work. Insulated leather gloves work gloves are both sturdy and warm. Also, "first-finger mitts", in which the index finger and thumb have their own openings but the remaining fingers are grouped together for warmth.
- ❑ **FACE VALUE.** The bitter cold on an employee's face and neck can be a big safety concern. For neckwear, choose chokers rather than scarves. Scarves can become entangled in equipment. A balaclava or partial face covering can keep sensitive noses and cheeks warm. Specially designed wind guards and facemask also provide good protection from the cold.
- ❑ **TOP IT OFF.** Finally, don't forget the hat. More body heat escapes through the head than anywhere else on the body. A hat that covers the ears or a combination of hat and headband will keep workers warm. Hats made of wool or synthetic material are the best.



Remember, there may be a trade-off between freedom of movement and safety. Convince workers that bundling up will actually help them perform better in the cold and help them stay warm.

\$AFETY PAYS\$

SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Open Meeting & Present safety topic: **PPE FOR COLD WEATHER**

Employees present:

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Old Business – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

Accidents/Near Misses – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting.

Inspection Reports – Findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since the last meeting.

New Business – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new machinery procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____



SAFETY BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 2022

TOPIC: SAFETY AROUND WARMING FIRES

Background: Over the last several years, we have experienced employees being burned because they threw fuel onto a fire. Unfortunately, burns can be the most difficult type of injury to heal. They are also some of the most painful and long-lasting visible reminders of a moment of carelessness. Since the cold weather is coming around again, here is a reminder of what can happen if you throw fuel into a fire.

We have had several logging crews start a fire in burn barrels or on the ground near the deck. In most cases, the time of day was early morning prior to daylight, and it was cold enough that they needed to build a fire while they awaited the daylight.

During one incident, the wood was in the burn barrel, and the fire was lit. One of the crew members got some fuel and threw it onto the fire. Unfortunately, it flashed back at him and burned him. The crew member sustained severe burns to the hand and face.

During another incident, two employees were injured pouring liquid onto a fire. Again, it was early morning, dark and cold. The first employee caught on fire when the fire flashed as he was pouring fuel onto the fire. The second individual was burned, trying to extinguish the flames on the first employee. One employee suffered burns to 6% of his body, but the other employee sustained burns to over 50% of his body.

UNSAFE ACTS & CONDITION:

1. Employee tried to help the fire along without knowing the hazards involved.
2. Flammable/combustible material was too close to the fire.
3. Employee did not know there was gasoline mixed in with the diesel on one incident.
4. The ultra-low sulfur diesel has a flashpoint around 100 degrees. It is not like the old-style diesel anymore. It will ignite.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:

1. Always know the condition of the embers and materials you plan to burn.
2. Do not try to help a fire that has glowing embers in it.
3. Be aware that pressurized containers like soda or water bottles will burst when the heat expands the gases trapped inside them.
4. Do not attempt to use fluids to help the fire burn as you do not know what they contain.
5. It is better to be safe than burned – do not try to accelerate a fire with flammable or combustible liquids.

You must stop needless injuries that can kill you or scar you for the rest of your life. Never have an attitude that you will not be injured. DO NOT POUR FUEL ONTO A FIRE!!

\$afety Pay\$

SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Open Meeting & Present safety topic: **SAFETY AROUND WARMING FIRES**

Employees present:

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Old Business – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

Accidents/Near Misses – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken.

Inspection Reports – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since the last meeting.

New Business – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new machinery procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____



SAFETY BRIEFING FOR MARCH 2022

TOPIC: FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE

Introduction: Several accidents have occurred that resulted in fatalities. Each accident was avoidable had the driver paid attention to the road conditions and kept proper following distances.

Scenario One: Two loaded log trucks from the same logging company were loaded with pulpwood with overhanging logs. The two drivers were taking their load to the same mill, so they traveled together. The weather was clear and sunny. This was their first load of the day.

The two trucks traveled for 20 plus miles from the job site and entered a small town. They had to slow down and shift lanes due to road construction. The first driver had downshifted and slowed to the 35 MPH speed limit. He then stopped for a red traffic light. However, the second driver failed to slow down and ran into the rear end of the first truck at approximately 45 MPH.

Several long logs from the first truck entered the engine compartment of the second tractor. One of the logs deflected toward the driver's side and entered the cab through the firewall. It penetrated the driver and continued out the back window. He died instantly.

Scenario Two: Same situation, another day. Two truck drivers each driving a pulpwood load with a large amount of overhang. They traveled together to deliver their loads to the same mill.

The weather was overcast clouds, but visibility was good. It appears that the weather did not contribute to this accident.

As they traveled, they kept in contact with each other by CB radio. The first driver would relay traffic information to the driver behind so they could avoid trouble/issues. They had traveled on a four-lane highway, and as they approached the town, the lanes transitioned to a two-lane road. The first driver reported that as he slowed down because of a school bus. He reported a sudden jolt to his truck, followed by a loud crashing noise. He exited the cab quickly and went to the rear of the truck.

He saw the second truck had hit his truck. The driver was dead. He was struck by logs that entered the cab. To make matters even worst, this was his father that drove the second truck. He does not know why his dad failed to slow down.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Avoid following too close.**
- **Keep safe distances to avoid this type of accident.**
- **Distractions remove precious seconds needed to react.**
- **Reduce speed**
 - **as you enter construction zones or towns**
 - **to adjust to road or weather conditions**

SAFETY PAYS

SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

TOPIC: Following too Close

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Open Meeting & Present safety topic: **SAFETY AROUND WARMING FIRES**

Employees present:

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Old Business – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

Accidents/Near Misses – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting.

Inspection Reports – Findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since the last meeting.

New Business – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new machinery procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____

