

SNOW STORMS AND ICE STORMS #38c

ACTSAFE SAFETY BULLETIN

This bulletin describes safety considerations for snow storms and ice storms. A snow storm is a storm with strong winds, wind-driven snow, severe drifting, and dangerous wind chill. An ice storm is a winter storm with freezing rain that results in ice accumulating on surfaces.

HAZARDS

Potential snow storm hazards include blinding conditions, snow drifts, and low wind chill factors. There may be a risk of being caught in an avalanche afterward.

Potential ice storm hazards include slippery surfaces that make walking or driving dangerous. Salt used

for slippery surfaces can act as an electrical conductor — instead, use an ice melt product that does not contain chemical salt. The weight of the ice can also break branches or whole trees, snap power lines, and bring down power poles.

CONTROL MEASURES

If snow or ice storms might affect your production, check the weather forecast and plan accordingly. If a storm watch or warning is issued, follow the procedures described in your production's safety plan.

In addition, consider the following control measures:

- Wear any required personal protective equipment, such as high-visibility vests and ice cleats.
- Get down from elevated areas, including aerial lifts, booms, and scaffolds.
- Use appropriate, non-conductive snow and ice management products (not salt). Make sure you know where shovels and ice melt are.

- Make use of warming shelters, including vehicles, if necessary.
- Secure and protect all equipment.
- Inspect exhaust pipes on vehicles, generators, and other equipment to ensure that they aren't snowed in or iced over.
- Stay clear of potential avalanche areas.
- Move to your pre-determined safe area or muster station, if instructed to do so.
- Don't return to an evacuated area until someone with authority has given the "all clear" signal.

REGULATORY REFERENCES

For more information on requirements, see [sections 7.33 to 7.38, Cold Exposure](#), in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, as well as OHS

[guidelines G7.35-1 to G7.37-2](#). You can find searchable versions of the Regulation and the guidelines at www.worksafebc.com.



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RELATED RESOURCES

- [Assessment of Ice Melt Products](#)
- [Guidelines for Working in Extreme Cold Temperature Conditions](#) (bulletin)
- Preventing Cold-Related Illness (infosheet)
- [Propane Guidelines](#) (fact sheet)
- [Propane Heater Safety](#) (sign)
- [Working in Wet or Cold Weather](#) (toolbox talk)

Actsafes Safety Association

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