

# >> TOOLBOX TALK - Winter Safety Hazards

Most construction tasks are the same year round, but during the winter workers must also contend with snow, ice, propane lines, heaters, and freezing temperatures. Winter safety hazards exist but **don't** have to result in injuries.

## STEPS TO SAFETY

Some hazards workers face and techniques used to help get through the season injury-free:

**Slippery surfaces** - Use sand or salt to cover icy work areas when needed, and wear work boots that have good treads.

**Poor Housekeeping** - Increase housekeeping efforts in winter and keep the job sites clean and organized to prepare for snow cover. Employees can easily injure an ankle or knee when they step on an object buried under the snow.

**Carbon Monoxide (CO)** - Much of the equipment on construction sites burn fuel, and every combustible engine creates carbon monoxide gas (CO). In open environments, carbon monoxide rarely creates a safety hazard, but as workers work in enclosed work areas and cover windows in buildings to reduce heat loss, they also trap dangerous carbon monoxide. Ensuring that fresh air is continually circulating through all enclosed work areas is of critical significance.

**Fire** - The risk of fire is higher in cold months. Keep heaters, torches and combustible materials away from each other. Always ensure that fuel vapours are not collecting in enclosed spaces.

## OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

The cold season adds many other issues - ice-covered windshields, traffic jams, dead car batteries etc. All of these can distract us from a focus on safety. Maintenance vehicles and allow extra time each day to travel to and from work and between sites.

**Discuss other safety issues specific to your site and record them here:**

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**Complete and attach Toolbox Talk Meeting Form and process as per company policy.**

Information adapted for NLCSA , with permission, from BC Construction Safety Alliance.



# TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ No. in Crew: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Last Meeting:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

	Names of Attendees (Signature Required)
<b>Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):</b>	
<b>Suggestions Offered:</b>	
<b>Action(s) to be Taken:</b>	
<b>Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:</b>	

Supervisor's Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_