

Traffic in Inclement Weather

Inclement weather can significantly reduce visibility, making it dangerous for workers, drivers, and anyone else on or near a worksite. Workers need to be able to work safely during roadwork operations when faced with inclement weather, including rain, snow, and fog.

Hazards

Reduced Visibility:

Inclement weather can impact visibility and depth perception for drivers as well as workers travelling on foot. This increases the risk of accidents, such as vehicle collisions or workers getting struck

Impaired Judgment:

Reduced visibility can lead to unintentional poor decision-making as workers may misjudge traffic speed, miss signals or warnings, and take unnecessary risks when visibility is poor

Slippery Surfaces:

Inclement weather conditions can cause moisture buildup on surfaces, making them slippery. This can increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls.

Fatigue:

Inclement weather conditions can cause strain and fatigue. Workers might be more stressed as they have to work in conditions that demand extra caution, leading to tiredness or reduced focus.

Hazard Controls

When working in inclement weather, employers and workers should take the following precautions:

Maximize Visibility:

- Use CSA-approved high-visibility apparel
- Ensure all vehicle and equipment lights are working properly.
- Install the proper traffic control signage as per the provincial Traffic Control Manual (TCM) well in advance of the worksite to alert drivers to slow down.

- Clearly delineate work areas with the proper traffic control devices.

Adjust Traffic Flow:

- Use additional traffic control persons and spotters & reduce speed limits. Communicate this clearly using signs, cones, and traffic control persons.



Slips, trips, and falls:

- Be aware of potential slippery spots, walk carefully, particularly in areas where equipment or vehicles have been operating, as this could lead to puddles or slick patches on the ground.
- Keep walkways and areas where workers move free of obstacles.

Clear Signaling:

- Use radios and/or hand signals to communicate with other workers, especially those operating heavy machinery.

Check the forecast regularly for possible changes in weather conditions.

- Be prepared to stop work if conditions worsen.

Stay Alert and Focused:

- inclement weather can make conditions stressful. Avoid distractions, take regular breaks, and ensure you are well-rested to maintain concentration.

Have an Exit Plan:

- Always be aware of your surroundings and know where the nearest safe exit or shelter is, should visibility worsen suddenly, or an emergency occur.