

WINTER IS COMING

ARE YOUR EMPLOYEE SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE?



Your Cold Weather Tip Sheet

Implementing a safety monitoring program is important—especially for your lone workers during the unpredictable and freezing temperatures of winter.

The U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) [warns](#) “prolonged exposure to freezing or cold temperatures may cause serious health problems such as trench foot, frostbite and hypothermia. In extreme cases, including cold water immersion, exposure can lead to death.”

“Danger signs include uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, clumsy movements, fatigue and confused behavior. If these signs are observed, call for emergency help.”

And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gives precautionary advice: “Workers who are exposed to extreme cold or work in cold environments [may be at risk](#) of cold stress.”

Cold stress can cause a variety of health issues. “Extremely cold or wet weather is a dangerous situation that can cause [occupational illness and injuries such as hypothermia, frostbite, trench foot, and chilblains.](#)”

As colder weather draws near, we offer tips in five areas to get you ready for winter.



Priorities, People and Profitability

Making your employees' safety a priority over profitability can be a game-changer for the morale of your organization. Many organizations have made safety their No. 1 priority—is it your organization's? And does it account for winter working conditions?

Your employees come first, and they need to know that. Putting employees first is also good policy from a financial perspective. Building trust and giving your employees the power to make decisions can lead to confidence and improved productivity.

Formal Risk Assessment and Mitigation

Mitigating safety risks is key—everything from slips, trips and falls to injuries from moving heavy objects, vehicle collisions, explosions, fires and chemical exposures.

Freezing rain, heavy snowfall, black ice and other winter conditions expose lone workers to even more risks.

Risks vary from industry to industry so conducting a thorough risk assessment and mitigation is vital for your employees, specifically your lone workers.



Equipping and Training Employees

Ensuring your employees are equipped with the tools they need to effectively do their jobs in the winter is essential. Deploying the right PPE is par for the course but winter weather requires additional consideration. Cold, wet and snowy weather often requires clothing that provides protection but doesn't get in the way of duties.

Training on machinery, safe use of tools and appropriate use of resources may need to be modified based upon weather conditions. Your workers need to be comfortable working in their environment and with their tools, regardless of the season.

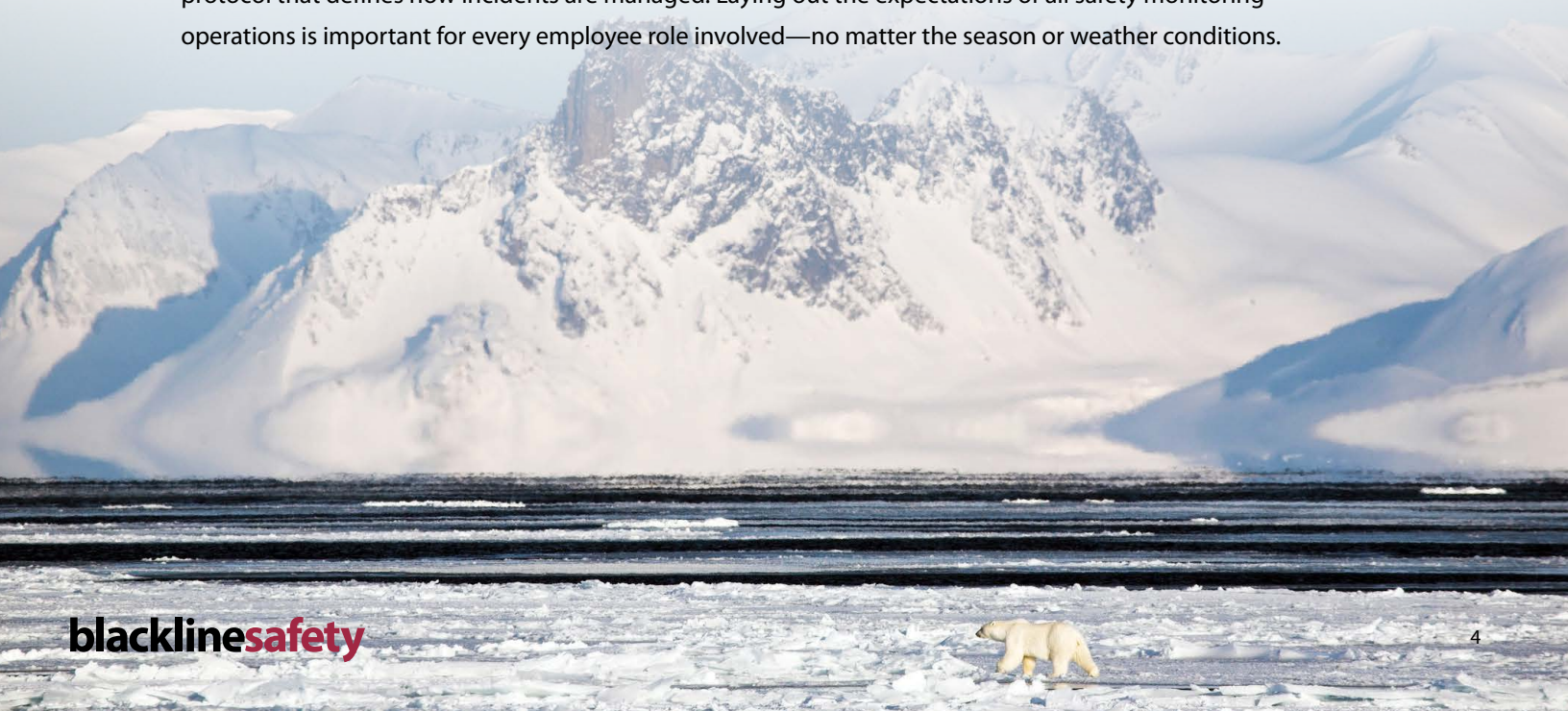
Employee awareness and other training resources—including emergency response and preparedness—are key ingredients to ensuring your employees are up-to-speed and aligned on the most recent training and development to successfully complete their work.

Work-Alone Policy

Creating a work-alone policy is a safety measure that defines when your employees are considered to be working alone, even when they are on a site with other crewmembers but out of sight and sound.

Lone workers are prone to even more risks in the winter months as the unpredictable environmental conditions can be severe and dangerous.

This type of policy also encompasses the process for responding to safety alerts generated by safety monitoring equipment when an incident occurs. It specifies the corresponding emergency response protocol that defines how incidents are managed. Laying out the expectations of all safety monitoring operations is important for every employee role involved—no matter the season or weather conditions.



Technology that Makes a Difference

Adopting a safety monitoring program that incorporates active monitoring far outclasses manual check-in processes or spot-checks and greatly improves your organization's ability to respond to safety incidents at any moment.

Automatic detection technology can improve the outcome for an employee who has suffered a workplace injury, health event or physical assault during the winter and cannot call for help.

Delivering help to a downed employee in the shortest possible time is the goal, and can be more challenging in winter weather conditions.

Real-time monitoring solutions combined with communication and precise employee positioning technologies for every scenario—indoors, outdoors, remote and driving locations. Your employees can work anywhere with confidence, especially in the winter months.

Ensure your team can check off these five areas for winter preparation so your teams, especially your lone workers, are best protected.



Do you need help implementing your winter employee safety measures?

BLACKLINE SAFETY CAN HELP. [CLICK HERE](#) →

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