TOOLBOX TALK for November 30th, 2026

Capenter's Training -
Portland - 12/05 Fall Protection. 12/05 Rough Terrain. 12/12 MEWP. 12/19 Forklift
Ontario - 12/05 Fall Protection

Cold Weather Safety – Working Safely in Snow, Rain, and Freezing Temperatures; Cold weather brings additional hazards to our jobsites, whether we're dealing with freezing temperatures, snow and ice, or the cold, wet conditions we often see in the Pacific Northwest. These conditions can affect our ability to work safely, especially when we're exposed for long periods. Snow, rain, wind, and wet clothing can quickly lower our body temperature, while snow and ice create additional slip, trip, and fall hazards.

Dress for the Conditions - Whether it's snowing or raining, staying warm and dry is important. Wear layers of clothing, starting with a moisture-wicking base layer, an insulating layer, and a waterproof, wind-resistant outer layer. In snowy or icy conditions, make sure your footwear provides good traction. Keep extra dry clothing available when possible.

Pay Attention to How We Feel and Watch Out for Each Other - Cold weather can affect concentration, coordination, and judgment. If we're shivering excessively, losing feeling in our fingers, or having trouble concentrating, it's time to warm up. Working through cold stress can lead to serious consequences. Sometimes people experiencing cold stress don't recognize what's happening. Keep an eye on coworkers.

Take Warm-Up Breaks - The colder, wetter, or windier the conditions, the more important it is to take breaks in a warm, dry location. Wind chill can increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia, even when the temperature doesn't seem especially cold.

Stay Hydrated - It's easy to forget about drinking water when it's cold outside, but dehydration is still a concern. Drink water regularly throughout the day. Warm, nonalcoholic beverages can help keep us comfortable, but they aren't a substitute for proper clothing and warm-up breaks.

Watch for Snow, Ice, and Wet Conditions - In wet conditions, watch for standing water, muddy surfaces, and electrical hazards. Keep cords and connections protected from moisture, maintain clear walkways, and make sure work areas have adequate lighting. Never assume a surface is safe just because it looks clear. Black ice can be difficult to see.

Inspect Your Work Area - Check for snow and ice accumulation, slippery surfaces, standing water, damaged electrical cords, and poor lighting. Remember that conditions can change throughout the day. Melting snow can refreeze, rain can turn to ice, and temperatures can drop quickly. What was safe this morning may not be safe this afternoon.

Winter weather is something we can't control, but how we prepare for it and respond to changing conditions is up to us. Stay warm, stay alert, and work safely.

Toolbox Talk Submission