



Cold Weather Safety Information and Guidelines

The following guidelines and reminders have been adapted from information provided to the World Sweeping Association by WSA's safety consultant, John Meola. This information is being distributed to the entire power sweeping industry as a public service of WSA.

This information may be freely forwarded to anyone who might find it to be useful.

Whenever there is a heavy snow/extreme cold advisory, it can be very helpful to have a comprehensive checklist on-hand to help make sure you're ready for whatever winter has in store. We suggest you start with the following guidelines and add to them to fit your specific situation:

- ___ Top off fuel and gas tanks; keep the stove wood dry.
- ___ Plan for temporary power outage in rural areas susceptible to isolated power failure.
- ___ While you're at it, check that you can start your chain saw, see you have fuel mix, etc.
- ___ Plan for temporary power outage in rural areas susceptible to isolated power failure. This is typically more of a nuisance than a catastrophe.
- ___ Pick up spare batteries as needed, phone charger power supply, flashlights, etc.
- ___ Use appropriate caution if the power goes out and you are planning to use kerosene or alternate heat sources. These have been known to cause issues from improper venting of fumes or causing fire. Exercise extra caution with any open flame devices, candles, lanterns, etc.
- ___ Check your smoke alarms. A CO₂ detector is also recommended if you want extra security.
- ___ Get your snow shovels ready and have a good broom available.
- ___ Keep walkways and entryways clear as best as possible.
- ___ Store water in containers; have ready-to-eat food products on hand, including dairy, bread, canned foods, and other easy-to-prepare items. Remember, foods like frozen pizza will need microwave and power...

Portable Generator Safety

- Make sure you have proper ventilation for exhaust.
- Do not run indoors.
- Keep fuel away from heat sources.
- Keep extinguisher handy.
- Shut down to refuel.
- Use a funnel to prevent spillage.
- Keep away from hot exhaust pipe and hardware.
- Supervise children.
- Sleep with one eye open when any machinery is running on your home turf.



Defensive Driving:

- Add weight to your rig, 4-wheel drive machines included
- Carry sand in buckets or bags - it can also be used for traction if needed.
- Other weight could be firewood, heavy tools, lumber, etc.
- Keep an extra large following distance even in 4-wheel drive rigs.

If you become stuck in heavy snow... remember these safety reminders:

- If you need to run the engine for HEAT, make sure your tailpipe is clear, not blocked by snow.
- Remember: Exhaust gas can accumulate under the rig and seep into cab.
- Keep a window partially open to allow air exchange.
- Get out periodically to change the air in cab; walk around and clear the snow from tailpipe.

In severe snow events, be alert for stuck, stranded, abandoned vehicles in travel lanes or on shoulders.

Vehicle Preparedness:

- Carry a grab bag of stuff in your rig — shovels, tow chain/straps/rope, bottled water, slim-jims, chocolate, munchies, spare change of clothes for extended duty cycles.
- Dry socks; spare gloves.
- Check all your running lights to make sure they are all operable.
- Check under the hood — fluid levels, belts, running gear, etc.

Driving Safely in SNOW and Ice:

Many drivers are clueless about driving in snow/ice. This is why a lot of high-dollar SUV's end up on barrier walls and in ditches as soon as the road gets slick. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM OTHER VEHICLES at all speeds on all roads.

- Moderate your speed for road conditions. Remember that bridges will ice up before the pavement. Use appropriate caution.
- When changing lanes in snow/slush/ice, make a very gradual change. A lot of spinouts occur when drivers change lanes to pass and end up with two wheels in slush, causing spin out. This is very hard to recover from.
- Increase your following distance. This can be frustrating when the guy ahead of you is creeping along at 7 mph. and you want to get past him.
- MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU — this is one of the 5 keys to defensive driving. Make sure other drivers see you before you try to pass. They may be impaired or have obscure windows.
- Clear your rig of ice/snow.
- Check wipers and washer fluid.
- Clean mirrors and glass.
- Clean headlight and brake lights/directional signals. Road salt and spray will cause impaired visibility.



- Carry paper towels along with a snowbrush — clean the lenses as needed.
- Keep your distance around plows and spreaders. The last thing they need is to be crowded by another vehicle.
- Watch your step getting in and out of the rig. This is when a lot of slip and falls occur.
- In extreme cold and snow/ice, make sure your wheel wells stay clear. Build-up of ice can cause a blockage of turning radius. Use shovel or pole to knock ice blocks loose from wheel wells, particularly before parking overnight.
- Test your brakes before moving out. Pads can freeze. Good practice is to lightly drag the brakes for a bit to dry them off before parking overnight.
- Turn OFF wipers before shutting down. Or lift them off the glass so they do not freeze.
- Use windshield treatment to prevent ice adhering to glass.
- If it will be extremely cold spray the door seals with WD-40 to prevent freeze up.

Keep track of your family and/or co-workers, on the road and on the job. Also provide for and check in on kids, pets, the elderly. If you're the one on the road, check in periodically to confirm your location. If you end up in a ditch upside down people need to know where to start looking.

- Avoid over-exertion when shoveling snow. Take rest breaks, pace yourself.
- Stay hydrated. Avoid energy drinks.
- Salt Sites, plow trucks, loading: stay away from moving machinery. Allow sufficient room for turning and backing vehicles. Assign a spotter if needed. Remember your VOSH Reverse Signal (Safe Backing) training.
- Avoid climbing onto dump beds. Use proper tools, ladders or other safe means to access elevated locations.

Remember your Machine Operator Safety Training if you need to run a loader.

- Wear your seat belt on the machine.
- Be alert for slippery slopes and anywhere there is not much level ground.
- Use wheel chocks or otherwise positive means to stop your rig on a hill.
- Remember we just talked about making SURE you are in PARK with brake set before exiting vehicle. *Take NO chances.*

Equipment Operators: be aware of your surroundings especially if you need to BACK UP!

Persons on the ground: Use full body high visibility apparel, warning lights; cap-mounted work lights; flashlights.

Everybody: Get a proper amount of rest.

DO NOT assume other drivers can see you on the ground, day or night!

Fortunately, most snow events are nuisance level. Occasionally a heavy snowfall will cause disruption, but with a little planning they are all survivable.

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