



# February Safety Info

Winter Weather Safety Precautions

5 Keys of Defensive Driving

Hand & Finger Injury Prevention

Reminder to do Close Call & Near Miss Reporting

General Advisory Ideas re: Towing & Loading

# WINTER WEATHER SAFETY



- Days are lengthening; @ 2 minutes per day
- **Sunlight Glare hazard** will persist early to mid-morning
- Early morning road icing hazard; bridge decks can freeze overnight
- Dress in multiple light layers: i.e., thermals, bibs or coveralls;
- **No hoodies while driving** or under hard hat
- Maintain hydration; use hand /skin crème; face covering helps minimize respiratory tract dryness from cold air;
- Headwear selection can make a big difference; most heat loss is from neck and head.
- Helmet liner & hard hat = good protective assembly in cold & wind
- Glove selection depends on protective factor such as ANSI Cut Level, impact resistance; surface & grip material; tool use, dexterity, etc.
- **High visibility outer garment** is recommended for practically all ‘Boots-on-the-ground’ exposures, in all environments

# 5 KEYS OF DEFENSIVE DRIVING



1. 'Aim high' in steering – look well ahead; '15 seconds'
  2. Get the Big Picture – front, back & sides
  3. Keep your eyes moving
  4. Make sure other drivers 'see' you – avoid blind spots
  5. Always leave yourself an 'Out'. Avoid being compressed in traffic; stay well clear of trucks.
- Maintain @ **4 second following distance** at all speeds.
  - Practice good 'lane discipline.' Not doing so is one of the leading causes of Road Rage; emphasize proper use of signals.
  - Intersections of all types — including parking lots — have the highest crash frequency
  - # 1 cause of crash = following too closely; #2 = backing into something.
  - Early AM start-out: let vehicle warm up, run defroster while you clean glass & mirrors.
  - If snow/ice accumulates on roof or hood, try to remove as much as possible pre-trip

# ELIMINATE HAND & FINGER 'OWIES'

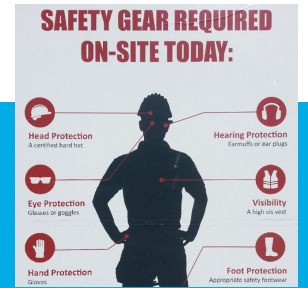
- This is a common daily exposure in field operations.
- Risks include: Pinch points, sharp edges, irregular shapes, awkward hand and finger positioning, bare skin contact, hidden hazards, moving parts, etc.
- **Assess your activity for hand hazards**: impalement, puncture, laceration, crush, impact, hot/cold, hand and arm FORCE; hammer or tool use; etc.
- **Glove type** & protective factor should be matched to the exposure.
- Use C Clamp, vise-grip, etc. to hold while hammering, NOT fingers.
- Remember that cold temps will affect dexterity.
- You may need more than ONE TYPE of glove on some exterior projects



# REMEMBER: DO CLOSE CALL & NEAR MISS REPORTING

These reports add to our awareness and understanding of RISK factors. What you learn by ‘others’ oops’ could help someone in our organization avoid the same issue. Typical categories include:

- Driving, especially backing
- slip & fall
- materials handling
- tool use
- interactions with other contractors
- tree and vegetation issues
- Environmental, including weather
- PPE ideas or current insufficiencies
- Ladders
- Anything else out of the ordinary that occurs



# TOWING & LOADING OF VEHICLES

- Trailer hitch inspection & maintenance applies to the vehicle AND the trailer. Safety chains should be hitched in an 'X' pattern; inspect for brake and directional light activation.
- Cargo tie-down straps – make sure you have a sufficiently rugged grade of belting. Wind load on oblique surfaces, such a boat, can be appreciable.
- Use at least THREE separate straps for improved security. Check the strap tightness when traveling long distances, on freeways, etc. Use chafing gear on sharp edges. If a proper tie-down or cleat is present, use it.
- Caution when using 'compression' holding force from the straps alone and remember that roof-mounted or towed objects will receive high wind force.
- Lost load, displaced objects are common occurrences. Look for signs of fastener failure, i.e., rust rings, abrasion, missing fasteners.
- Vibration, stress, overloading, wind loads, etc. can create issues.
- Moderate your travel speed when towing or transporting roof-mounted objects.

