

Spring 2019

Thaw/Freeze Changing Ground Conditions

Over the next few days we will be experiencing slippery sections of work terrain due to thaw/freeze cycles. This change will affect the working conditions at the site.

We all need to stay vigilant for recurring hazards which may include:

- Slips and falls due to snow and ice
- Slippery conditions on metal and wood
- Melting and re-freezing on treated sidewalks and walkways
- Access and egress — is there adequate sanding?
- Rushing to catch up or complete work during the short warmer weather window
- Driving hazards — icy road conditions
- Significant dirt and dust thrown up onto vehicle windows and lights — keep extra windshield washer fluid on hand in your vehicle

Hazard mitigation:

- Alert your site to identified slippery areas
- Mark on JSA when ground conditions are poor
- Keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice, apply salt or ice melt

- Apply grit to slippery areas and keep extra grit in trucks to apply to slippery areas found during the day (some grit options include: sand, walnut shells, kitty litter, oyster shells)
- Improve lighting at work sites (eg. headlamps, overhead lighting)

PPE:

- Wear approved winter footwear. Site policy states that work boots need to be 6-inches high from the sole — this is to provide you with adequate protection against ankle sprains or strains
- Inspect your boots regularly for wear — you might be surprised to notice that the treads are worn out
- Anti-slip traction devices should be worn to help mitigate the hazard — use ice and snow cleats for improved traction if required



Let's recognize that any change, including changes to weather, is a risk we need to address.