Cold & Severe Weather Planning

SF-LIB-12 | Health | Employer planning starter

Plan cold exposure, ice, weather monitoring and shelter access.

Scope and limits

Employer planning recommendations informed by OSHA winter-weather guidance; adapt to local conditions and equipment limits.

Proposed employer workflow

1. Assess temperature, wind, wetness, exposure duration and access conditions.

2. Provide suitable clothing and dry replacements, warming arrangements and work scheduling.

3. Check ice, snow and visibility on routes; control access until surfaces and structural conditions are evaluated.

4. Assign weather monitoring and decision authority. Establish stop and restart criteria for storms and equipment limits.

5. Use a communication or buddy arrangement suitable for remote work; teach recognition and reporting of cold stress.

6. Arrange emergency assistance and safe shelter; do not rely on an exposed roof or unheated vehicle as a universal refuge.

Stop-work trigger

Stop for deteriorating access, cold-stress symptoms or conditions beyond the approved limits.

Adapt this resource before use. It is not OSHA-approved, a certification, a permit, or a complete site-specific safety program. The employer must determine applicable rules and approve the actual controls.

Site implementation worksheet

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Employer / site: _____

Administrator / contact: _____

Effective date / next review: _____

Complete these topic-specific arrangements

Exposure / location / forecast source

Procedure / location / responsible person

Clothing / warming / access controls

Procedure / location / responsible person

Weather decision limits / communications / response

Procedure / location / responsible person

Attach the supporting plans

Identify applicable federal, State Plan and task-specific rules; attach equipment instructions, assessments, maps and any required written programs or permits. Record their document IDs below.

Supporting document / revision / owner

Employer approval / signature / date: _____

Approval of this worksheet alone does not authorize hazardous work.

Field check & follow-up

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Task / date / reviewer: _____

Mark each item Yes / No / N/A. Explain N/A. Resolve any missing critical control before work; record who verified the correction.

Check	Y / N / N/A	Action / owner
Forecast and conditions checked		
Dry clothing available		
Warming location accessible		
Ice and access controlled		
Stop/restart owner named		

Crew briefing and verification

Discuss: Stop for deteriorating access, cold-stress symptoms or conditions beyond the approved limits.

Ask each worker to explain the task controls and who to contact. Record the topic, participant names, demonstration or questions, and unresolved gaps. Attendance alone is not proof of proficiency.

Participants / evidence / gaps / corrective action

Reviewed by / date / follow-up due: _____

Official reference and use

https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather

Source checked Nov 3, 2026. OSHA regulations and recommended guidance have different roles. Verify changes and applicability before adoption. Procedures and forms here are original SafetyFluent planning aids. Copy and adapt for internal workplace use, retaining source and revision details.

Records: assign secure storage, access and retention based on applicable requirements; there is no universal retention period for every form. Keep medical details out of this general crew worksheet.