

BULLETIN

Met Office issues rare amber cold weather warning for England with 'severe conditions' and snow to hit



Working safely in adverse weather conditions

It is important that all colleagues are vigilant at times of adverse weather. Your health and safety and the safety of those around is your responsibility too. Use caution, speak to your Line Manager, or contact the QHSE Team if you are unsure about anything. If you feel that your safety or the safety of others around you is compromised, you must inform your Line Manager and the QHSE Team as soon as is reasonably practical.

Adverse weather conditions can have an impact on the way that we work and the environment that we are working in. To ensure that we stay safe during times of adverse weather, we need to understand that there are additional hazards which need to be considered and additional control measure which may need to be put in place to minimise or eliminate these hazards.

Working in intense cold can slow you down physically and mentally. Your reactions are slower and decision making, over even simple things, becomes harder. Hence accidents are more likely to happen.

Top Tips

Walking during cold and icy weather requires special attention to avoid slipping and falling. Slips and falls are some of the most frequent types of injuries during the winter months. Avoid footwear with smooth soles and heels, such as plastic and leather soles, and instead wear a pair of well insulated footwear with good rubber treads and walk slowly and with shorter steps when on icy surfaces. Main pathways and steps should be cleared as far as possible of snow and ice to allow safe access to buildings.

If driving when travelling to work, leave extra time for your journey, considering hazardous driving conditions. Ensure that your vehicle is prepared for the weather, and you have plenty of fuel to complete your journey. Where possible park in a safe and well-lit area, within a short walking distance of your workplace.

Remove as much snow and water from your footwear as you can when entering buildings, water from melting ice on the floor can also lead to slippery conditions. If floors become wet, ensure that signage is put in place to alert others.

Dress in loose-fitting layers to adapt to changing temperatures. Ensure that you have extra clothing with you, in case of emergencies.

Make sure that you have a fully charged mobile telephone, with all relevant contact details in case of emergencies.

Further information on weather conditions is available from the Met Office at:
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/> or local radio broadcasts.

Public transport service updates and information on disruptions due to the snow and ice conditions are available on rail and bus websites.

Traffic updates and important travel information can be found at: [http:// www.theaa.com/](http://www.theaa.com/)