



RISK REMINDER

March 2024

Name: _____ Company: _____

BE PREPARED FOR BAD WEATHER



Although Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow forecasting an early spring it doesn't mean we won't experience occasional bad weather. It is important that you are prepared to handle the cold, rain and snow. Weather can threaten drivers' safety on the road and put them in danger. Drivers should always be aware of upcoming conditions for the day by checking the weather and road conditions regularly before beginning your shift. Before bad weather hits, all vehicles should be given a thorough safety check and should be equipped with emergency materials such as a snow scraper, blanket, first aid kit and flashlight. Drivers should also ensure that they are dressed for the cold and have proper protection in case they are stranded.

To Drive or Not

Drivers should operate with safe, cautious driving techniques in all types of weather and know what to do in case of an accident. Sometimes, the weather may be too severe to safely drive. It is essential that you consider pulling off to the side of the road when visibility or traction is threatened. Your company policies might dictate this behavior.

Risks for Warehouse Workers

Warehouse employees and drivers performing loading and unloading tasks are also at risk during inclement weather. It is important to be dressed for the weather and be prepared to handle these conditions—even if you are only exposed for short periods throughout the day. Extreme cold, precipitation and wind can be extremely dangerous and damaging even in small doses.

Cold Weather Safety

When exposed to cold, wet or windy conditions, you should take the following precautions:

- Take breaks to get warm if exposed for extended periods.
- Drink plenty of liquids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Be aware of any cold weather related side-effects of any medication they may be taking.
- Know and understand symptoms of cold-related illnesses and injuries.
- Stretch before physical work to prevent muscle pulls and injuries.

Protective Clothing

Personal protective equipment and protective clothing is especially important for drivers and on the loading dock during inclement weather because of the slip and fall hazards present. While it is impossible to remove all perils on the loading dock and on the truck bed, so while securing loads, loading and unloading, you should wear approved slip-resistant footwear. In addition, you should wear the following clothing to protect from cold, wind, rain or snow:

- At least three layers of clothing, including a loose fitting outer layer, allows ventilation and prevents overheating
- Hat or hood
- Insulated boots
- Gloves – not only can the cold cause injuries to exposed skin, but cold hands also make one more prone to injury when lifting objects or operating machinery

QUESTIONS

1. What should be included in your emergency kit?
2. Coffee is an acceptable liquid to drink when exposed to severe cold.