



KENTUCKY
AGC Self Insurers' Fund

Working Safely in Cold Weather: Start with a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA)

Winter conditions add new risks to every task — from reduced visibility and slippery surfaces to cold-stiffened equipment and slower reaction times. Before work begins, crews should identify cold-related hazards and plan controls to prevent injuries.

Why a Job Hazard Analysis Matters in Winter

Cold weather changes how work is performed. A Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) helps crews:

- Identify task-specific winter hazards
- Adjust work methods and equipment for cold conditions
- Reduce the risk of cold stress, slips/falls, and equipment incidents

Common Winter Jobsite Hazards

- Slippery walking and working surfaces
- Reduced dexterity and grip strength
- Cold-stiffened hydraulic hoses, seals, and components
- Reduced visibility from snow, frost, or shorter daylight hours
- Fatigue from working in heavy or restrictive clothing

Before Starting Work — Review These JHA Questions

- Has the walking/working surface been cleared, treated, or inspected?
- Are weather conditions (wind, temperature, precipitation) safe for the task?
- Will cold affect tool performance, materials, or lifting methods?
- Is the crew dressed appropriately for the task and duration?
- Is there a plan for warming breaks and emergency response?

Cold Stress Warning Signs

If these symptoms occur, stop work and seek warmth and medical help immediately:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Slurred speech or confusion
- Clumsy movements or fatigue
- Numbness or pale/waxy skin

Layering and PPE Reminders

- Inner layer: moisture-wicking synthetic fabric
- Middle layer: insulation (wool or fleece)
- Outer layer: wind- and water-resistant, breathable material
- Protect hands, feet, ears, and face from exposure

Key Takeaway

Cold weather safety starts before the task begins. A short JHA discussion can prevent injuries, equipment damage, and costly incidents.