

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

November 2021

EFFECTS OF WEATHER

Winter weather presents hazards including slippery roads, strong winds and environmental cold. There are many things you can do to minimize the effects of weather on your body or worksite. Check the weather every morning to get an idea of what to wear to work.

Wind

- Dust and other debris can blow into your eyes. It is a good idea to wear a pair of safety goggles, or to at least keep a pair nearby.
- In extreme cases, the wind can blow people off of scaffolds, roofs, or other tall structures. If the wind seems especially dangerous, refrain from heights if possible until the weather subsides.

Rain

- Wear anti-slip shoes and wear waterproof gear.
- Be aware of the rain's effect on visibility. Use a spotter for all operators of heavy equipment/vehicles and keep the site well-lit.
- Monitor any electrical equipment and extension cords for exposed wiring. Keep all electrical equipment away from heavy rain (and especially keep it from being submerged in water).

Lightning

- Be aware electrical storms can occur without any rain.
- Stay away from any type of tall object.

Communication is critical in the event of extreme weather.

Winter Driving

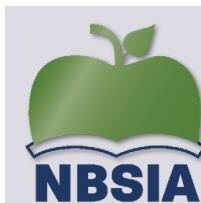
- Driving requires care and caution at any time of year. But winter driving has even greater challenges because of wet and icy road surfaces, longer hours of darkness and poor visibility due to rain and fog.

- Drive appropriately for the road conditions. The posted speed limit may be too fast under winter conditions. Driving on a wet road can cause hydroplaning as a thin barrier of water builds up between your tires and the road surface, causing your vehicle to slip. **If you begin to lose control of your steering, take your foot off the gas.**
- The most important thing for drivers to remember is to slow down, as it takes longer to stop in wet weather. In rainy conditions, pedestrians, animals, and other obstacles are hard to spot and harder to avoid.



Sources

- <https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather>
- <https://www.defensivedriving.org/dmv-handbook/drive-safely-rain/>



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