

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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ADVERSE COLD WEATHER AND THE READY MIXED CONCRETE INDUSTRY

Adverse Weather

Adverse weather, especially during the winter months, can introduce the potential for more hazards in the ready mixed concrete industry. This reality necessitates a renewed focus on preparing concrete companies to protect workers from these hazards that often require workers to navigate, in part, muddy, wet, snowy and icy walking and working surface conditions. To reduce and eliminate these conditions and the injuries, accidents and costs associated with them, ready mixed concrete producers should assess their operations and any liabilities during times of adverse weather.



Adverse Weather Considerations

Ready mixed concrete production facilities should have all employees review procedures for walking and working surfaces and fall protection at plants. As well, drivers should slow down to prevent accidents, and all employees should use adverse weather personal protection equipment (PPE). Managers should document findings and follow-up with corrections for any necessary fixes, changes or updates to facilities and programs. Producers should also be aware of cold weather stresses such as trench foot, hypothermia, frostbite and exhaustion, and how to prevent and treat them.

Actions

Considerations for adverse cold weather:

- Think first
- Be especially mindful of 3-points-of-contact when ascending or descending stairs or ladders
- Take smaller steps on slippery, wet and icy surfaces
- Keep walking surfaces dry or use slip prevention surfaces
- Adhere to proper safety housekeeping
- Maintain good lighting
- Use care when removing snow and ice, especially from elevated surfaces
- Maintain communication
- Utilize necessary and correct attire and PPE

Resources

For more information on adverse cold weather please follow the links below:

NRMCA: [Safety Series](#)

OSHA: [Winter Weather](#), [Cold Weather Publications](#)

OSHA: [Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

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