



## Winter precautions

There are a variety of weather-related hazards that employees may be exposed to during winter, from dangerous driving conditions to the risks that come with shoveling snow and working outdoors in the elements.

Every business faces changing risks as winter approaches—whether winter brings snow, rain, or plummeting temperatures. Being prepared for the many hazards of winter weather can help you better manage the impact of such incidents on your employees, residents and visitors. With proper preparation and effective communication, you can make these cold winter months more tolerable and safe for everyone.

**Here are some Specific steps you can take to improve winter work safety include:**

- *Ensuring you have a reliable shovels or contractor for snow removal*
- *Maintaining an adequate supply of de-icing products (salt) (sand)*
- *Encouraging employees to wear slip-resistant footwear*
- *Keeping walkways clear, All exits, emergency exits, ramps, stairwells will be cleared as soon as possible after snowfall.*
- Snow must be removed from vehicles prior to first use after snow fall, headlights, roofs, windshields, side mirrors, licence plate will be cleared of ice and snow. (there is a bylaw that prohibits the use of vehicles with excess snow remaining on vehicles in Antigonish.

- Vehicles should be equipped with winter tires and snow removal equipment.
- Proper winter attire is the responsibility of the employee, if you require support acquiring the proper clothing for winter use please see the community leader or safety Coordinator
- If you are unable to participate in snow removal due to health reasons please inform your House leader /program leader so arrangements can be made.
- During severe winter storms, utility outages can knock out heat, power, and communication services, this can last for hours and sometimes even days. Have a plan for how employees are expected to continue to work in the event of an outage, as well as how you will stay in touch with employees and office administration. If you have any questions, please refer to the person on call.

