

Safe Work Practice – Working Outdoors

SWP-015

Preparation: Safety Specialist

Approval Authority: Senior Management

Issuing Dept: Safety

GENERAL:

To ensure that Diversified Staffing employees are protected from the hazards associated with working outdoors.

PROTECTIVE MECHANISMS:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Part 18 OH&S Code
- Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

SELECTION AND USE:

- As per the job requirement
- OH&S Legislation – Part 19 Powered Mobile Equipment

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY:

- To facilitate and/or provide proper instruction to their workers on protection requirements
- Selection of Equipment
- Hazard Assessment
- Work Site Inspection

DURING WINTER/COLD:

What to Wear

- Several layers of clothing is better than a single heavy coat or jacket
- Warm hat that covers the ears
- Gloves or mittens
- Dry socks
- Scarf or ski mask
- Slip resistant footwear
- Hard hat in case of falling snow or ice
- Reflective vest when near heavy machinery or vehicles

What to Bring

- Carry extra clothing if you are likely to get wet
- Snacks such as energy bars to energy up
- An emergency kit for your vehicle including blankets, flashlight, water, shovel and first aid supplies

What to Do

- Make note of icy areas and ensure signs are properly posted and area is sanded
- Do not operate gasoline or fuel-powered equipment with doors closed'
- Keep your skin dry. Wet skin freezes quicker
- Drink plenty of water to keep from getting dehydrated
- Avoid sitting still outdoors for long periods of time
- Take adequate breaks from the cold
- Keep your energy level up when working outdoors by eating a snack
- Set reasonable pace for yourself to complete tasks, don't over exert yourself

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- Immediately seek shelter and call for medical help if you or a co-worker can't stop shivering, begin stumbling or become confused or severely fatigued

DURING SUMMER/HEAT:

What to Wear

- Lightweight, loose-fitting clothing
- Broad-brimmed hat that shades sun from face
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen with SPF of at least 30 with UVA/UVB protection
- Lightweight gloves if hands will be exposed to the sun for long periods of time

What to Bring

- Several water bottles
- Sunscreen for re-application every 2 hours

What to Do

- Drink water every 10-15 minutes while working
- Eat smaller meals more frequently
- Avoid strenuous tasks in the sun around mid-day when sun is strongest
- Take breaks in the shade or air-conditioned area
- Set a reasonable pace for yourself to complete tasks, don't over exert yourself
- Immediately seek shelter and call for medical help if you or a co-worker experience dizziness, high body temperatures, begin stumbling, become confused or severely fatigued

NOTE:

- All PPE must be inspected prior to use.
- All equipment must be inspected prior to use.

***The information contained within this document does not take precedence over Occupational Health and Safety legislation. All employees should be familiar with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the *Regulations*.**

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