



COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume 46 Issue 49 December 4, 2023

## Winter Vehicle Safety

Winter weather affects roadway conditions and creates hazards that you're exposed to whenever you drive your car, a work vehicle, or operate heavy equipment on the road. It's important that you recognize the hazards of driving on roads covered in snow, ice, or sleet, and follow safe driving practices.

**Only drive if you are alert, rested, and focused.** Don't drive if you're under the influence of alcohol or any kind of drugs—even over-the-counter and prescription medicines. Get plenty of rest. Don't drive when you're drowsy.

**Before you drive, inspect your vehicle.** Check your windshield wipers, tires, and tire treads. Make sure you have a usable spare tire. Check fluid levels including the antifreeze, anti-icing washer fluid, and oil. Be sure your windshield, windows, and mirrors are clear of debris, ice, salt, and snow. Test the windshield and rear window defrosters. Check your brakes, horn, headlights, taillights, turn signals, and emergency flashers. Don't drive if the vehicle is not safe to take on the road.

**Be prepared for an emergency.** Keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. It should include road maps, a flashlight with extra batteries, a cell phone charger, jumper cables, a tow chain, flares, a fire extinguisher, a shovel, and traction aids like a bag of sand or cat litter. It's also a good idea to bring a hat, gloves, a few snacks, and a couple bottles of water in case you get stranded and have to wait for help. But don't leave the water in the vehicle if it could freeze.

**These winter driving safety tips could save your life:**

- Make sure you are licensed and authorized to use any vehicle or heavy equipment you operate.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Check the weather, plan your route, and give yourself plenty of time to make the trip.
- Be aware of potential icy areas such as shady spots, bridges, and overpasses.
- Be patient. Drive defensively, not aggressively.
- Always wear your seat belt and make sure all your passengers do, too.
- Turn on your headlights, even during the day, to make it easier for other drivers to see you.
- Slow down and allow plenty of space between your car and the vehicle in front of you. It will take longer to stop if the road is icy.
- Avoid braking or accelerating suddenly so you don't skid or lose control.
- Don't pass a snowplow or a truck spreading salt or sand unless it's absolutely necessary.
- Never idle in your garage or any enclosed area.
- Don't get distracted by your phone or passengers.
- Keep your vehicle properly maintained.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**Sometimes it's just safer to avoid driving in winter.**

**NOTES:**

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

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S.A.F.E. CARDS\* PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

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REVIEWED SDS # \_\_\_\_\_ SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEETING DOCUMENTATION:**

JOB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_

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*These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.*



COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume 46 Issue 50 December 11, 2023

## Moving Building Materials

Every day, all kinds of building materials are delivered to the jobsite: bags of cement, structural steel, lumber, bricks, flooring, drywall, etc. These materials may be delivered and moved around the jobsite in all kinds of different ways. You'll move some by hand. Other materials get moved with pickup trucks, flatbeds, cranes, forklifts, and front-end loaders. How you load, unload, handle, and store each material varies depending on its size, weight, and shape. But all materials have to be unloaded, moved, loaded, and stored safely!

**Whenever you move materials by hand:** 1) lift properly and carefully to protect your back, and 2) watch out for your hands and feet so they don't get pinched or crushed.

**Choose the right type of vehicle, equipment, and machinery to load and unload materials safely.** You may need a crane, forklift, or other mechanical lifting device. Or you may be able to load and unload the material with the help of a co-worker and a hand cart. If you need to climb into a truck or onto a flatbed to unload it, maintain three points of contact when getting off and on. Avoid placing your hands, legs, and feet in places where they could get crushed if part of the load shifts or moves.

**Make sure you know the weight of the load, as well as the capacity of the vehicle and equipment you're using to unload materials.** Check your route to make sure it's clear and that the floor or ground will support the weight of the load and the equipment. If you'll move on ramps or slopes, plan carefully so the load doesn't tip over or spill.

**Secure all materials so they cannot get loose during transportation.** Materials can roll, fall, or become dislodged in transit and injure or kill someone. Whether you're picking up lumber from the lumberyard, or just moving it across the jobsite, secure it to your vehicle so it can't fall off and hurt someone. Mark loads that stick out of the bed of a truck with a red or orange flag. Use wood blocks or chocks to prevent round objects—like rolls of insulation or tar paper—from rolling away once you've unloaded them.

**Use caution when you work around heavy equipment that's moving material, including unloading or emptying trucks.** Respect exclusion zones. Don't ever walk or work under a load. Inspect rigging. Use proper signals when communicating with the operator. Maintain eye contact with the operator. Never walk behind heavy equipment unless the operator gives you the okay and knows where you are.

**Wear the necessary personal protective equipment for handling materials.** Cuts, abrasions, and crushing injuries are common in material handling. Protect yourself by wearing gloves, steel-toe boots, long sleeves, and kneepads when they're needed. And always wear your hard hat and safety glasses.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**Don't set up a friend to get crushed. Stack materials so they can't slide, roll, or tip over.**

**NOTES:**

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:  
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COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume 46 Issue 51 December 18, 2023

## Flammables and Combustibles

Working with flammable and combustible materials on the jobsite exposes you to a range of hazards. These hazards include fires and explosions, toxic fumes, chemical burns, and the dangers associated with improper storage. It's important that you're aware of the risks and learn safe work practices in order to protect yourself and those working around you.

**Flammable liquids catch fire easily and ignite at or below room temperature.** By definition, flammable liquids have low flash points. This means the vapors can ignite at low temperatures when they're exposed to a spark, open flame, or heat source. Additionally, the vapors from flammables are dangerous to breathe. Flammables include gasoline, propane, and some solvents.

**Combustible materials, on the other hand, require higher temperatures to ignite and burn.** Combustibles have a higher flash point than flammable materials and don't ignite as easily. But they can still burn when they're exposed to enough heat or an open flame. Combustible materials include diesel fuel, plastic packaging, paper, cardboard, wood, and insulation.

**Follow these safe work practices when working with flammable and combustible materials:**

- Read the label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for products you have to use. Look for information on PPE, what to do in case of a fire, first-aid measures, how to manage a spill, and more.

- Wear the PPE you need to stay safe. You may need goggles, gloves, a respirator, and possibly flame-resistant clothing.
- Inspect your work area before using flammables or combustibles. Check for open flames, sparks, and other ignition sources.
- Make sure fumes don't build up and create a potentially explosive atmosphere. The vapors are invisible. They can collect in low spots and in areas with poor ventilation. Use flammables in well-ventilated areas.
- When you're working, keep flammables and combustibles away from open flames, electrical equipment, and tools that produce heat or sparks. Know where fire extinguishers are kept.
- Avoid getting flammables and combustibles on your skin since they can cause chemical burns.
- Store flammable and combustible materials in designated areas. Use approved storage cabinets that are clearly labeled and meet OSHA and NFPA safety standards.
- Don't leave flammable materials in open cans or buckets. Never leave them in direct sunlight.
- Know how to call the fire department and how to evacuate the site if there's a fire.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**Keep local water safe. Dispose of chemicals responsibly.**

**NOTES:**

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

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COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume 46 Issue 52 December 25, 2023

## Cranes

Cranes play a crucial role in the construction industry. They serve as essential tools for lifting materials and equipment to heights that are often unattainable by any other machine or equipment. But remember, while cranes are invaluable tools, they also present safety challenges that everyone on the jobsite must be aware of.

**There are many types of cranes** including carry deck cranes, rough-terrain cranes, lattice boom cranes, mobile all-terrain cranes, hydraulic cranes, and tower cranes. Learn and understand the hazards of whatever type of crane is being used on your jobsite.

**Selecting the right crane is essential.** You'll have to think about load capacity, reach, mobility, the amount of space available, the terrain of the jobsite, the surrounding area, and environmental conditions. Then you'll have to consider the lifts that need to be made. The crane has to meet all of the requirements.

**You'll also need to consider who will operate the crane.** A crane operator must have experience and be certified to operate the crane. Some employers and site owners require crane operators to have a medical card that shows that they're medically fit to operate a crane.

**Here are some safety tips for crane operations:**

- Know where the crane will be set up. Look for overhead obstructions, like trees, buildings, or power lines, that make operating the crane unsafe. Consider the full reach of the boom.

- Check the ground you plan to set the crane on. Depressions and holes could prevent you from setting up and/or placing the outrigger pads and mats. Unstable ground could cause the crane to tip or sink.
- Know the weight of the loads being lifted. Remember to factor in the weight of the rigging. Overloading the crane can cause structural failure or collapse.
- Make sure that operators, riggers, and signal people are trained and certified to do their jobs. Establish clear and constant communication between all of them using standard hand signals or radios.
- Block or barricade the swing radius of the crane so no one gets crushed.
- Inspect all rigging components before use.
- If you're a rigger, wear all the necessary PPE. Watch where you put your hands and feet. Make sure loads are balanced, secure, and properly rigged before each lift.
- Use tag lines to guide the load, not your hands.
- Respect exclusion zones.
- Never walk under a suspended load.

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**SAFETY REMINDER**  
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**Cranes are fair-weather friends. Don't operate a crane in high winds, thunderstorms, or other foul weather.**

**NOTES:**

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