

Basic Emergency Kit	Winter Extras
flashlight	small or foldable shovel
bottled water	ice scraper
non-perishable food	sand, salt, non-clump litter
blankets or sleeping bag	extra blankets
whistle and pocket knife	extra clothing
standard first aid kit	winter chains
fire extinguisher	■ hand warmers
jumper cables / tow rope	extra windshield wiper fluid
duct tape	DIY de-icer
cell phone charger	matches or lighter
■tire gauge	small tin can with candle
reflective gear	



Winter Weather Preparation

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to helping workers avoid fatal and life-changing injuries by alerting their instincts so they always pause and "think safety" before moving forward.

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1. Develop plans for plowing, shoveling and salting.

- a. Do any employees come in early? If so, the plowing/shoveling/salting should be adjusted accordingly or employees should be directed to come in after this is done.
- b. For operations with shift work, are plans in place to ensure plowing/shoveling/salting to provide adequate clearing before and after all shifts?
- c. High visible vests should be worn by those engaged in plowing, shoveling and salting.

2. Are employees shoveling?

- a. Train on proper body mechanics.
- b. Direct employees to push snow when they can rather than pick it up.
- c. Consider the use of ergonomically designed shovels.
- d. Place shovels in areas that are readily accessible.
- e. Do not transport people in the bed or tailgate of the truck so they can shovel a walkway on the other side of the property.

3. Are employees salting or putting down anti-skid material?

- a. Did you order enough salt and/or anti-skid material?
- b. Place salt in areas that are readily accessible.
- c. How is the salt spread? Do you have a push behind, hand held or truck mounted spreaders?

4. How are bags of salt handled to prevent a strain/sprain injury?

- a. Employees often open salt bags with a knife because they do not want to take their gloves off. Provide safety box cutters or blades that can be handled with gloves to prevent a laceration.
- b. Truck spreaders have a slip/fall and strain exposures as employees will need to climb onto the back of the truck to refill the spreaders. Employees are also handling up to 50 lb. bags of salt. Instruct employees to load the spreader from the truck and provide a safe means for them to access this area. Prevent employees from lifting bags from the ground and attempting to reload a tailgate spreader by lifting the bag over their head.
- c. Provide guidance on safe lifting techniques for employees loading push behind salt spreaders.

5. Are you using any snow blowers or other power equipment to remove snow?

- a. Pre-season check Complete a pre-season check of the snow blower and ensure all safety devices are working properly.
- b. Train employees on proper use of snow blowers and other power equipment.
- c. Who is getting gasoline and how is it being transported and stored?
- d. Snow blowers can become especially dangerous when there is wet snow. The chute can become clogged and operators may try to clean it out with their hands and not stop the blower.

6. Have plans in place to reduce strain/sprain injuries and struck by injuries if you transport a snow blower to different work locations.

- a. Use caution with loading ramps placed on the tailgate of pick-up and dump-trucks. When it's snowing and wet, these ramps slide easily and only a couple inches of movement can cause the ramps to slide out of place and the snow blower can become unbalanced and fall.
- b. Avoid lifting snow blowers. This practice can result in a back strain.





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7. Are employees plowing?

- a. Make sure your plow truck has a flashing light to increase visibility.
- b. Backing up (especially around a building when no one can see you coming) is a major exposure for both pedestrians and property. Ensure employees are properly trained and aware of backing hazards.
- c. If plowing for an extended period of time employees should be directed to wear sunglasses to prevent "snow blindness".
- d. When mounting the plow to the truck, train employees to keep feet and hands out from underneath the plow. It can sometimes drop without warning because the hydraulic fluid is still filling the lines.
- e. Remind employees to slow down when plowing. Often, the longer an employee sits in a plow truck, the faster he or she will begin to travel. This behavior is attributed to rushing to get finished as well as over confidence.

8. Are employees protecting themselves from the elements as they remove snow?

- a. Instruct employees to wear layers when shoveling. As they warm up, they can take layers off and prevent sweating. Sweating can lead to hypothermia once an individual begins to cool down.
- b. Keep skin covered to prevent frostbite.

9. Will employees be removing snow from roof areas?

• What controls are in place to prevent falls, strains/sprains and struck by injuries?

10. Are you using a contractor?

- a. Does the written contract specifically spell out the work to be done and when? For instance, does the contractor know they are doing both shoveling and plowing? If they are to perform salting be sure this is included as well.
- b. Are they aware of your needs for early employees, shift work, etc.?
- c. Do you have a current Certificate of Insurance (COI)?

11. Designate specific pathways to be used by employees.

- a. Restrict access to areas that are hard to keep free of ice due to melting/re-freezing.
- b. Prevent employees from taking "short cuts" through areas that are not maintained.
- c. Keep employees away from areas near rooflines as much as possible, especially a day or two after the snow. As snow begins to melt it will slide off the roof.

12. Share information with employees on proper footwear

- a. Direct employees to wear winter appropriate shoes or boots and change into dress or work shoes once inside your facility.
- b. Provide ice cleats, traction aids, and slip-on overshoes where appropriate.

13. Provide driving tips and reminders to employees to help prevent a motor vehicle accident due to ice and snow.

In case of breaking down or getting stuck on the side of the road, make sure employees are prepared. Provide suggestions on what they should carry in their vehicle.





Black Ice and Winter Driving

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According to the Federal Highway Administration, more than 116,000 injuries and 1,300 fatalities occur in auto accidents on snowy or icy roads each year. A common culprit in many of these accidents is "black ice," a transparent glaze that forms without bubbles, allowing it to easily blend into the surface of the road. Decrease your chances of injury this winter by learning more about this slippery hazard. Recognize hazardous conditions "Black Ice" is most likely to form over bridges, overpasses and shaded areas of the road. These areas have much colder surfaces and are more susceptible to sudden temperature drops such as in the early morning and evening hours. Other common problem areas are places that may rapidly freeze when air moisture makes contact—especially near lakes or rivers.

Recognize warning signs when conditions are present for icy roads, so you can be on high alert.

Look for these warning signs:

- Black ice looks a lot like wet blacktop.
- Absence of water spray on a seemingly wet road.
- Cars suddenly swerving or skidding.
- Brake lights ahead.
- Cars or tire tracks in the ditch.
- Shiny surfaces next to a dull black.

Use these tips to maneuver past the problem area:

- Stay Calm on Black Ice!
- Avoid making sudden moves or turning the wheel.
- Smoothly lift your foot off the accelerator and glide across the ice in a straight line until you find traction.
- Shift: If possible, slowly shift car to a lower gear for added control.
- Brake wisely: If you begin to skid, firmly press on your brakes to activate the anti-lock brake system (ABS). Or, if you don't have ABS, pump the brakes gently.
- Avoid spinout: If your front end is sliding, steer in the opposite direction of the skid; if the back end is sliding, steer in the same direction.
- Look toward where you want to go: Avoid looking where you think you might crash—you might inadvertently veer the car in that direction.

Avoid the Potential for Accidents. To stay safer on the road this winter exercise these preventive measures:

- Check road conditions before you travel.
- Never use cruise control when road conditions are uncertain or changing.
- Don't rely on all-wheel drive for ice—it won't help you gain traction.
- Slow down and don't tailgate.
- Use snow tires.





PERSONAL SAFETY — WINTER

Footwear

- Rubber soled shoes or boots are less likely to slip on icy surfaces than leather soled shoes or high heels.
- Worn out soles increase the hazard of slips. Wear footwear with maximum traction.
- Carry your dress shoes; wear your boots! Think safety BEFORE fashion.
- Watch your footing when getting out of your vehicle.
 Walk slowly and defensively.
- Consider storing rock salt or cat litter inside your car in case you need to sprinkle an icy area to increase traction as you walk towards a dry area.





Clothing

- Dress properly for the cold. It's best to wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air insulates, and you can remove layers to prevent perspiration and subsequent chill. It's important to stay dry, and good outerwear will protect your other layers of clothing from rain and snow.
- Wear a hat, too—because half of your body heat loss is from your head. Protect your hands with gloves or mittens, keeping in mind that mittens, snug at the wrist, are warmer than gloves.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots. Make sure they aren't too tight because tight boots will constrict the circulation in your feet and won't leave room for a protective layer of insulating air



Preventing Hypothermia and Frostbite

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Hypothermia occurs when body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Do you know how to recognize hypothermia and what to do?

Symptoms of hypothermia include fatigue, drowsiness, uncontrolled shivering, bluish skin, slurred speech, clumsy movements, irritability, and irrational or confused behavior. Here are some tips for what to do if a co-worker appears to be suffering from hypothermia:

- Call for emergency help, and move him or her to a warm, dry place.
- Remove wet clothing and replace with warm, dry clothing or wrap the person in blankets.
- Give the victim warm, sweet drinks if the person is alert. Avoid drinks with caffeine (coffee, tea, or hot chocolate) or alcohol.
- Have the victim move arms and legs to create muscle heat. If they are unable to do this, place warm bottles or hot packs in the armpits, groin, neck and head areas.
- Finally, do not rub the victim's body or place them in a warm water bath. This could stop
 the heart.

Hypothermia is not the only danger of working in cold conditions. Frostbite occurs when deep layers of skin freeze. Symptoms include pale, waxy skin and numbness in the affected area. Frostbite usually affects fingers, hands, toes, feet, ears, and nose. If a co-worker seems to be suffering from frostbite:

- Move him or her to a warm, dry place.
- Do not rub the affected area. This might damage the skin. Instead, gently place the affected area in warm—not hot—water for 25 to 40 minutes.
- When normal feeling and color have returned, dry the skin, and wrap the affected area to keep it warm.
- Finally, seek medical attention.

To prevent frostbite and hypothermia, remember these simple safety rules:

- Dress warmly in waterproof and wind-resistant clothing. Wear several layers to provide the best protection.
- Wear a hat and gloves. Remember, up to 40 percent of your body heat can be lost if your head is uncovered.
- Wear insulated, waterproof boots to protect against cold and dampness.
- Take frequent short breaks in a warm, dry place to allow your body to warm up.
- Drink warm, sweet beverages, but avoid caffeine or alcohol.
- Finally, eat warm, high-calorie foods on meal and snack breaks.







PREVENTION OF WINTER RELATED SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Remember these tips to help avoid slips/trips/falls when the weather is snowy, icy or wet.

- Put safety before fashion by wearing shoes or boots with slip resistant soles and carry your work shoes with you.
- Remove as much snow as possible before entering buildings.
- Watch for wet floors. If you encounter a wet surface, shorten your stride, point your feet out, and don't cut corners, so you can make wider turns.
- Walk! Don't run.
- Walk with your arms by your sides for balance.
- Bending your knees a little and talking slower steps can greatly reduce your chances of falling.
- Watch where you are walking.
- Use handrails on stairs.
- Long, loose pant cuffs present a tripping hazard.
- Use designated sidewalks and walkways.
- Survey the area around your vehicle for icy or wet patches prior to exiting your vehicle.
- If walkways are impassable and you have to walk in the street, walk against traffic and as close to the curb as possible.
- Remember-streets and walkways may be slippery. Don't carry heavy packages that may impair your sight and balance.
- Pay extra attention walking from surface to surface.



Relax: Try not to stiffen and tense your muscles.

Absorb: Let your arms and legs give like a spring to absorb the

impact of the fall.

Roll: Move with the direction of the fall to minimize injury.





SAFE SNOW REMOVAL

It's never too early to train your workers on safe snow removal. Ensuring they know how to clear their driveways safely will cut down on absenteeism and injuries during the winter months. So whether they use snowblowers or shovels, give them an effective review of how to stay safe when removing snow.

Snowblowers are very popular because they make snow removal so much easier, but they are powerful machines that must be treated with respect. Train your workers to take the following precautions:

- If snow is forecast, check the area to be cleared to ensure that it is free of debris that might get picked up and hurled by the blower. Never use a snowblower on a gravel driveway for that very reason.
- Read the manufacturer's manual before using the blower.
- Dress appropriately with warm clothing, sturdy boots, and hearing protection, but no loose scarves or other items that could get caught in the blower.
- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning by starting and running gasoline-powered snowblowers outside.
- Before you start, make sure no one is in the dangerous discharge area.
- Never leave a machine running when it is unattended.

Sometimes snowblowers can get clogged. Here's what workers should do when a clog occurs:

- NEVER put your hand in the intake or discharge chute!
- Turn the engine off, wait at least 5 seconds for the blades to stop rotating.
- Use a long stick or broom handle (NEVER your hand) to clear the clog.
- Keep all shields in place. DO NOT REMOVE the safety devices on the machine.

If your workers opt for the more traditional method of shoveling snow, remind them that shoveling is an extremely strenuous activity, especially if there's a lot of snow or if the snow is wet and heavy. Give them these precautions to follow:

- Check with your doctor before you shovel.
- Pick the right shovel for you. A smaller blade will require you to lift less snow, putting less strain on your body.
- Plastic shovels weigh less than metal.
- Use a shovel with an ergonomic handle.
- Pick up smaller loads of snow.
- Push snow rather than lift it when possible.
- Try to clear snow early and often—take frequent breaks.

It also makes sense to give workers a quick refresher on safe lifting. Urge them to protect their backs from injury by lifting correctly.

- Lift with your legs, not with your back.
- Bend your knees and keep your back as straight as possible.
- Never bend at the waist.
- Step in the direction that you are throwing snow.

Most importantly—encourage your workers to listen to their bodies. And stop if they feel pain!

Why It Matters...

- Snow shoveling causes an average of nearly 100 deaths and 11,500 emergency department visits each year in the United States.
- The most frequently injured area of the body is the lower back (34%).
- Heart problems make up 7% of the injuries—but 100% of the deaths.
- The most common cause of injuries was acute musculoskeletal exertion (54%).
- Slips or falls (20%) are the second most common cause of injuries.





WINTER — YOUR VEHICLE AND YOU — BE PREPARED!

Driving in the winter means snow, sleet, and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions from the National Safety Council to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

Weather

At any temperature — 20 degrees Fahrenheit below zero or 90 degrees Fahrenheit above — weather affects road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems. It is important to listen to forecasts on radio, TV, cable weather channel, or forecasts in the daily papers.

Your Vehicle

Prepare your vehicle for winter. Start with a checkup that includes:

- · Checking the ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and fan belts.
- Changing and adjusting the spark plugs.
- Checking the air, fuel and emission filters, and the PCV valve.
- Checking the battery.
- Checking the tires for air, sidewall wear and tread depth.

Necessary Equipment

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared. Following the tuneup, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should carry:

- A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod-type jack
- A shovel
- Jumper cables
- Tow and tire chains
- A bag of salt or cat litter
- Tool kit

Essential Supplies

You must be prepared with a "survival kit" that should always remain in the vehicle, be replenished after use, and contain the following:

- Working flashlight and extra batteries
- Flares, reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth
- Compass
- First Aid Kit
- Exterior windshield cleaner
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Wooden stick matches in a waterproof container
- Scissors and string/cord
- Non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts dried fruits, and hard candy.





WINTER — YOUR VEHICLE AND YOU — BE PREPARED!

In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm such as:

- Heavy woolen mittens, socks, cap, blankets
- Newspapers to wrap around your torso and feet, and large plastic leaf bags you can cut holes in for your head and arms.

If You Become Stranded:

- Do not leave your vehicle unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation.
- To attract attention, light two flares and place one at each end of the vehicle a safe distance away. Hang a brightly colored cloth from your antenna.
- If you are sure the vehicle's exhaust pipe is not blocked, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour or so depending upon the amount of gas in the tank.
- To protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia, use the woolen items, blanket, newspapers, and large bags to keep warm.
- Keep at least one window open slightly. Heavy snow and ice can seal a vehicle shut.
- Eat a hard candy to keep your mouth moist.



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While the danger from winter weather varies across the country, nearly all Americans, regardless of where they live, are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

One of the primary concerns is the winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region.

The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the "Deceptive Killers" because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Instead, people die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. It is important to be prepared for winter weather before it strikes.

Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

To prepare for a winter storm you should add the following supplies to your emergency kit:

- Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Visit
 the Environmental Protection Agency for a complete list of recommended products.
- Sand or kitty litter to improve traction.
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.
- Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when
 disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how
 you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS). Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals
 or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.





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During Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

- Stay indoors during the storm.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia. These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms of hypothermia are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove wet clothing, warm the center of the body first and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Get medical help as soon as possible.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive: travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts.
- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes.
 Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.
- Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

Source: http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather







SLIPS AND FALLS PREVENTION GUIDE

Slips, trips, and falls are preventable!

You can prevent a fall by doing your part, watching where you are going and thinking about where your feet are going.

As an employer you are responsible for the safety of employees once they report to work. You should also be concerned about getting employees in and out of your building safely, especially during inclement weather. No industry or business is exempt from injuries that result from inclement weather. Rain, sleet, snow and ice are hazards to every business.

This Prevention Guide will provide information to assist you in preventing weather related slips and falls and provide actions you can take to reduce the potential for injuries.

Tips for Managing Slips and Falls

- Establish who is responsible for snow and ice removal, i.e., facility managers, custodians, grounds
 maintenance staff and contracted snow removal personnel. Make sure that all responsible parties are aware
 of the specific locations they are to remove snow.
- Train those responsible in procedures for safely maintaining walkway surfaces, including the location of equipment and supplies.
- Plow, shovel and use de-icing, salting or ice melting chemicals to remove ice and snow.
- Apply de-icing chemicals before a storm, followed by snow/ice removal during and after the storm. Use plenty of de-icing materials, as using "barely enough" will leave patches of ice.
- The initial step in de-icing is choosing a de-icing agent. When selecting ice melting chemicals, here are some things to consider:
 - Rock salt (sodium chloride) is the least expensive but is somewhat corrosive and can damage concrete, interior surfaces and vegetation. It may need a wetting agent when used at low temperatures.
 - Calcium chloride and magnesium chloride are more effective than rock salt and most effective at lower temperatures. Magnesium chloride is somewhat less corrosive than calcium chloride, which is about as corrosive as rock salt.
 - Calcium magnesium acetate is the most environmentally friendly but is more expensive and is least effective at lower temperatures.
- Check the surface regularly. For parking areas, this can be time-consuming, but it is well-worth the effort.
- Effective ice removal often occurs during the day with full sun. But full sun will melt adjacent snow or ice, placing water runoff on the de-iced walking surface. This will dilute the solution and tend to refreeze at night. With dropping temperatures, ice can re-form with falls occurring first thing in the morning.
- Aim for evaporation. If the water can drain (e.g., drains aren't blocked) and there is full sun or even reasonable wind, the water (even ice) will evaporate. A dry pavement is a clear indication there is no ice.
- Use a friction additive. Sand is the most popular because it is cheap. Use a lot of it. Make certain that anyone walking on the surface has a lot of traction. Be sure to clean up the residue once inclement weather is over as loose materials may lead to a slip hazard in the future.
- Check and treat surfaces every morning, especially around snow piles where melting may have created new problem areas. Reevaluate during the day and treat as needed.
- Remember that a clean-looking surface is only "safe" if it is dry. A wet surface can contain ice and also can turn
 to ice in the shade or overnight.





SLIPS AND FALLS PREVENTION GUIDE

- Have designated walkways cleared and established before employees report to work and prior to them leaving for the day. Ensure designated parking areas are cleared as well prior to employee arrival and departure times.
- Have all employees utilize designated walkways and enforce this practice.
- Have snow removal equipment and supplies readily available. Keep shovels and ice melt near all walkway entrances.
- Take advantage of technology and telephone or text employees to alert them to use caution when entering building

Walk off Mats

- One important precaution is the placement of walk-off mats at all entrance doors.
- Mats should allow for a minimum of 10 paces in the normal direction of travel in order to absorb water and snow that may accumulate at entrances during inclement weather.
- Mats should be constructed of rubber or cocoa fiber, which help remove water and dirt from shoes. The color of the mats should contrast with the color of the flooring, and mat edges should taper down to the floor for a smooth transition to the floor's surface.
- Under severe conditions, consider posting a janitorial staff member at each entrance to warn employees and customers entering the area about the slipping hazard and to manually mop any excess water that may accumulate.

Field Operations

- For those employees who do not report regularly to an office, such as home health aides, sales representatives, and service technicians; it is recommended that they carry kitty litter or small kits in their vehicles to treat ice or snow covered walkways as they may come upon them.
- It is recommend that employees wear slip resistant shoes wherever they may be exposed to wet surfaces and consider slip-over grips to make walking in the snow safer

Although Eastern Alliance Insurance Group does not recommend or suggest one product/vendor over another; we have listed some resources below that you may find beneficial:

Consider purchasing temperature sensitive signage in which the color changes when the temperature is below freezing for outdoor use at employee parking lot entrances:



Have employees wear a type of traction aids such as the slip over sole grips, etc. when they are outside shoveling or de-icing the pavement/concrete.

