



## Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

**Number:** 53-011

**Title:** Physical Hazard:

Thermal Conditions: Indoor/Outdoor Cold

**Saskatchewan Employment Act:**

**OH&S Regulation:** 6-7

**Date:** January 1, 2017

**Date Revised/Reaffirmed:** December 30, 2021

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### Purpose

To reduce the risk of accidents, hypothermia and frostbite during outdoor work in cold weather or cold conditions

### Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- That in an indoor environment the temperature is appropriate for the work being performed and is of a reasonable thermal comfort
- That if the temperature may pose a safety risk to workers the temperature will be monitored
- Effective protection for all workers is provided
- Reasonable thermal comfort of workers

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- That roles and responsibilities of all workers are being met, as well as applicable legislation and/or standards
- Safe work procedures are written and followed
- When work involves riding on an unshielded vehicle or in windy conditions, use shields or screens to protect workers from wind
- Observation from a co-worker who is trained to recognize symptoms resulting from extreme temperatures
- Ensure the availability of a warm location for warm-up breaks; in some circumstances a "buddy system" or a reliable communication system should be used
- A plan is in place when required for workers to alter their pace of work, increase rest breaks and fluid intake when symptoms present. Preventative measure may include job rotations
- Appropriate clothing is provided or allow workers to obtain suitable clothing and/or footwear; some vehicles may need to be equipped with survival gear

Worker must ensure:

- They are trained in and follow the safe work procedures
- They are trained in and use any PPE required (selection, use, care and handling)
- They report to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line for any symptoms related to or near miss conditions as a result of cold weather

**Materials**

- Appropriate PPE if required

**Non-Compliance/Breach:**

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

## Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

May 28, 2018

December 30, 2021