

Winter Operations Safety Checklist

Information provided by The Salt Institute

INTRODUCTION

Completing the checklist below can help you “think safe” and “act safe” to be safe in winter operations. Make photocopies and use a copy before each winter operation. Dry runs, an item at the beginning of the checklist, ideally should occur in rainy weather just prior to snow season, so that areas of poor drainage where water may “pond” and freeze can be identified more easily.

SAFETY PREPARATION FOR WINTER OPERATIONS

- Training for crews
- Dry runs (wet runs) – make notes
- Marking obstacles
- Trimming trees

SAFETY DURING WINTER OPERATIONS

Crew Safety

- Adequate sleep / rest
- Personal protective equipment
- Multi-layered warm clothing
 - o Hardhat with liner
 - o Safety vest
 - o Safety shoes
 - o Boots
 - o Gloves
- Emergency Survival Kit
 - o First-aid kit
 - o Flashlight with extra batteries
 - o Ice scraper/snow brush
 - o Jumper cables
 - o Basic tool kit
 - o Flares or reflectors
 - o Flags for traffic control
 - o Shovel and traction material (sand)
 - o Fire extinguisher – check pressure
 - o Thermos and lunchbox

Material Safety

- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Emergency Procedures

Vehicle and Equipment Safety

- Preventive maintenance
 - o Daily checks
- Pre-trip inspection
 - o Fluid levels
 - o Tire tread and inflation
 - o Brakes
 - o Heater
 - o Defroster
 - o Windshield wipers
 - o Clean windows and mirrors
 - o Lights
 - o Backup alarm
 - o Plow flags
 - o Warning signs on rear of truck
 - o Radio communications
 - o Full fuel tank

Facility Safety

- Good housekeeping
- Well lit facility

Operations Safety

- Safety belt
- Defensive driving
- Obey traffic laws
- Do not speed
- Safe backing circle-of-safety
- Allow sufficient stopping distance
- Dump bed no higher than cab top when moving
- Block plow before changing blade
- Disconnect spreader before unclogging
- Be aware of fatigue

