

# **Safety Meeting Topic:** *Cold Work Hazards*

#### **Cold Stress**

On very cold days, employees should take adequate precautions to prevent cold-related illnesses including hypothermia or frostbite.

### **Cold-Stress Illnesses Signs & Symptoms**

- Frostbite occurs when the skin actually freezes and loses water.
  - Signs and Symptoms:
    - Cold, tingling, stinging or aching feeling in the frostbitten area, followed by

#### Numbness

- Skin color turns red, then purple, then white or very pale skin, cold to the touch
- o Treatment
  - Do not rub the area
  - Wrap in warm cloth or use hot pack
  - Immerse in warm, not hot, water

## Hypothermia

- Signs and Symptoms:
  - o Shivering
  - o Lack of coordination, stumbling, fumbling hands
  - o Slurred speech
  - Memory loss
  - o Pale, cold skin
- Treatment
  - o Move to warm area
  - Stav active
  - o Remove wet clothes and replace with dry clothes or blankets, cover the head
  - o Drink a warm (not hot) sugary drink

#### **Conclusion:**

Employees need to dress appropriately for the work they will be performing and should take breaks as frequently as necessary to warm up inside a building or in a company vehicle. It is a good idea to keep extra clothes in your truck in case the weather changes.

Signature of Employees in Attendance:	DATE:	