



# Crew Talk

## Clear Stairs and Walkways

Date of talk: \_\_\_\_\_

### Description :

With the onset of snow and -0 conditions comes the risk of slips and falls on stairs and walkways that have not been cleaned off.

Areas around entrances to buildings can have snow and ice build up overhead that creates a potentially hazardous condition.

### Contributing Factors:

Snow and ice build up on stairs and walkways.

Heat loss around doors and windows can cause ice to build up overhead.

Inadequate inspections of facilities.



### Recommended Preventative Actions:

Ensure your winter weather conditions protocol is being implemented.

At temperatures below - 6 degrees Celsius, salt may be ineffective, therefore sand may be necessary. Install heat tape or guarding along the edge of the roof, where there is potential to fall and cause injury. Inspect facilities regularly.

### Discussions / Follow-up Actions:

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Names of Attendees:		



# Facilities Winter Preparedness Checklist

## Before Winter Weather Arrives:

### General

- Form an emergency action plan and educate all personnel in its use.
- Designate a *weather watcher* who will receive and evaluate weather forecasts and place the plan in operation when critical temperature conditions are predicted.
- Set up priority for steam usage in order to keep critical equipment in use and provide adequate tracing of the systems.
- Keep standing instructions that the public fire department be notified *immediately* in the event of a fire.
- Hold a winterization meeting with key personnel, well before cold weather.

### Buildings

- Inspect roofs weekly to ensure they are in good repair. Make sure flashing is secure, coverings are free from tears and blisters, and fastening and ballast is adequate as needed.
- Keep roof drains clear.
- Remove accumulations of debris (scrap paper, dust and chips) promptly to prevent clogging of drains or overloading the roof when wetted.
- Establish an emergency roof snow removal team. Ensure it is well equipped (shovels, blowers, etc.) to remove heavy snow accumulation as it occurs.
- Look for places where cold winds can blow in. Close up small openings and make necessary repairs.

### Equipment

- Drain idle equipment.
- Inspect domestic water, compressed air and instrumentation piping for sections that may be exposed to freezing.
- Heat trace and insulate exposed piping sections that must remain in service over the winter. Piping that need not remain in service (i.e., hose bibs) should be drained and winterized.

### Fire Equipment

- Provide proper heat (at least 4°C) and insulation for valve houses, water tanks, pump houses, etc.
- Check water temperature (and heating or circulation equipment) of fire protection tanks daily to prevent freezing.

**Dry Pipe Sprinkler Systems** - Make a list of all dry pipe systems and check them off one by one as follows:

- Locate and clearly identify low point drains so they can be easily found. A list of low point drains should be posted in each valve house or adjacent to each riser.
- Check the pitch of piping to be sure any condensed moisture will flow back to low-point drains or the dry-pipe valve. Install additional low point drains if necessary. At the same time, check for and repair broken/damaged pipe hangers that could cause low points.
- Open low point drains to “blow down” the systems and remove collected moisture.
- Ensure that the air supply for the sprinkler system's compressor(s) are cold and dry to avoid condensation within piping.
- Drain condensate traps in plant air systems on a regular basis.
- Check the integrity of the sprinkler systems to ensure air pressure can be maintained for 24hrs without the use of air maintenance devices of plant air supplies.

**Wet Pipe Sprinkler Systems** - Make a list of all wet pipe systems and check them off one by one as follows:

- Ensure that adequate building heat is provided to all areas served by wet pipe sprinkler protection. Special attention should be given to areas near doors, windows, skylights, ventilators and other large openings. Blind spaces, unused attics, stair towers, low spaces under buildings and roof houses are often subject to freezing.

## **Before Winter Weather Arrives: (cont. from page 1)**

### **Antifreeze Systems**

- The freezing point of solutions on antifreeze systems should be checked by measuring the specific gravity with a hydrometer and adjusting the solution if necessary.

### **Outside (Valves, Hydrants and Yard Main)**

- Check Post Indicator Valves (PIV's) & Hydrants for tightness and repair any leaks.
- Inspect all non-freeze hydrants to ensure they are completely drained.
- Ensure all underground mains have proper depth of bury or are adequately insulated. Specifically, check any mains that are located near ditches or in areas recently excavated.

## **During Freezing Weather**

### **Buildings and Non-Fire Piping Systems**

- Inspect roofs for excessive snow accumulations and employ emergency snow removal as necessary. Pay particular attention where drifting snow can accumulate such as where a lower roof adjoins a higher roof. Caution must be taken to ensure that roof coverings are not damaged.
- Prevent ponding of water and ice on roofs by clearing drains of ice and snow and clearing paths to drains.
- Make sure instrumentation and domestic piping remains unfrozen.

### **Fire Protection**

#### **Sprinkler Protection**

- Maintain extra heat during periods of extreme cold, especially during idle periods. Check room temperatures frequently, to ensure temperatures do not drop below 4°C for areas protected by wet pipe systems.
- Check dry pipe sprinkler systems, check once per shift (or at least daily) for both system air pressure and temperature in the dry-pipe enclosure. If necessary, insulate the enclosure and install a safe portable heater to keep the temperature in the enclosure above the freezing point.
- Inspect and drain low point drains on dry pipe sprinkler systems at least weekly.
- Provide heat tracing lines where necessary.
- Keep all fire protection valves and hydrants visible and accessible by removing snow accumulations.
- Make drain tests of sprinkler risers wherever practicable to determine if underground mains are frozen. *Open the drain wide, let it run 30 seconds or more, and then shut it off. If the pressure fails to return promptly to normal there may be ice blockage.*
- If maintenance personnel are not available, be sure guards are trained as to what action should be taken if a sprinkler alarm sounds:
  1. Summon the fire department.
  2. Verify whether or not there is a fire.
  3. Summon the appropriate personnel so the system can be reset immediately.

#### **Underground Main**

- Underground mains which may be exposed to freezing due to a lack of adequate cover may be protected by providing additional cover or by insulation and heat tracing or by establishing flow in the piping by cracking a two inch drain on a sprinkler system. The latter alternative is not a permanent solution; ultimately adequate cover or insulation must be provided when warm weather returns.

## **If A Fire System Freezes - Give "Top Priority" To Restoring Full Protection**

- Inform management of frozen systems immediately as hazardous operations may need to be curtailed.
- Determine the extent of freezing. If possible, isolate the portion of the system which is frozen and return the remainder to service. If a small section of a system is frozen, consider removing the frozen piping to a warm area.
- Do Not** use a torch or open flame to thaw frozen pipes. Remove frozen piping to a heated area until it has been warmed sufficiently to force the ice from the pipe.
- Once the piping is clear of ice, examine it for cracked fittings, split pipe and opened or weakened sprinkler heads.
- Reinstall the pipe with proper pitch. For dry systems, reset the valve and check for air tightness of the system.



## Forest Industry Safety Alert

Close Call or Serious Incident

Serious Incident

Select distribution (*internal or external*):

External - Share with SAFE Companies

Safety Alert type:

Other

BCTS Business Area

Date of Incident

Company Name (optional)

Jan 1, 2009

### Details of Incident

The scaler was sleeping in a travel trailer next to scale shack at a remote log load-out. In the morning (first round) the first truck across the scales was waiting for the scaler to weigh him in. When the scaler was not in the shack, the driver went to get him from his travel trailer. Unable to get a response from the scaler, the driver entered the travel trailer and found that the scaler was unconscious.

The scaler was rushed to the nearest hospital where he was treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

An investigation later revealed that the heat exchanger in the propane furnace in the travel trailer had burnt out and the exhaust was venting into the enclosed space of the trailer, poisoning the scaler.

### Recommended Preventative Actions:

Thoroughly inspect all the components of your heating system.

Ensure adequate man-checks for remote operations.

Install carbon monoxide detectors where there is a risk of exposure.

For more

For more information please contact:

BC Forest Safety Council

# Western Forest Products Duke Point Hazard Alert

# 72

Date of Incident: **December 16, 2008** Site: **Duke Point Sawmill**  
Experience:

Incident : **Employee was pushing a tech cable reel and slipped on the ice and strained his knee**

Description:

**The employee was rolling an 27" diameter wooden reel of tech cable across the yard from the planer mill to the sawmill. As he was rolling this reel he slipped and strained his knee.**

Upset Conditions:

- 1. Walkway was covered with snow and ice**



### Learning and Suggestions:

- 1. Ensure walk areas are cleared and salted.**
- 2. When walking in snowy icy winter conditions take extra care**
- 3. Ask for help or use moving/lifting devices when moving products/materials in poor conditions**

For more information contact: Terry Baker 250-714-9310  
Safety Web Inc. # \_\_\_\_\_



## Forest Industry Safety Alert

Close Call or Serious Incident

Serious Incident

Select distribution (*internal or external*):

External - Share with SAFE Companies

Safety Alert type:

Other

BCTS Business Area

Date of Incident

Company Name (optional)

Jan 1, 2007

News Source

### Details of Incident

A 40 year old man was using his snowblower to clear his driveway when a piece of ice jammed the auger. The man then tried to use his hand to clear the auger. The engine was still running, but the man thought the auger had a separate clutch system. He is unsure if he bumped the clutch, but he somehow engaged the auger and got his hand stuck in the snowblower.

A neighbor with a crowbar was able to extricate his hand. The man had massive tissue damage in his hand and required numerous stitches, but did not lose any fingers. He was off work for weeks.

### Recommended Preventative Actions:

Read the manual for the piece of equipment you are operating.

Follow the de-energization and lockout procedures for the equipment.

Report all injuries.

For more information please contact:

BC Forest Safety Council



## Forest Industry Safety Alert

Close Call or Serious Incident

Close Call

Select distribution (*internal or external*):

External - Share with SAFE Companies

Safety Alert type:

Manufacturing

BCTS Business Area

TCC - Cariboo-Chilcotin Timber Sales Office - Williams Lake, Quesnel

Date of Incident

Company Name (optional)

Dec 1, 2009

Pinnacle Pellet

### Details of Incident

A 950 loader was operating close to a operating wood grinder and a piece of tramp metal flew out of the grinder and struck the loader breaking the window in the access door.

### Recommended Preventative Actions:

All operations should review the location of their grinders and ensure that they are away from traffic areas and workers avoid being in proximity when they are running.

For more information please contact:

Lorne Davies