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# **Tool Box Safety Talk # 36 09-01-2024.**

**Topic: Safety for the Fall Season**

The fall season is upon us once again in the Northeastern portion of the U.S, that means construction companies are on a full court press to complete their work before the winter season hits. The following safety tips are important to keep in mind as the season changes to Fall.

**Changes in the Weather**

Construction work zones are inherently dangerous to begin with. During the fall season, wet, slippery conditions put the traveling public as well as the men & women working in the work zone at additional risk. Pay attention to the changes in weather by ensuring that the Competent Person on site monitors the ever-changing weather conditions. Construction personnel should always have an extra change of clothes with them in case they get wet during the course of their workday. People can succumb to hypothermia when the air temperature reaches 50- 65°Fahrenheit. When you add wet and muddy clothing to that, hypothermia is a real potential for personnel working outdoors during the fall season.

**The morning & afternoon sun can be intense during the fall season**

Vehicle and equipment operators need to be prepared to put on sunglasses when needed and they should also clean the glass/windows on their equipment daily. It is very important that vehicle & heavy equipment operators STOP their equipment if their vision is impaired at any moment. If an operator cannot see because of glare, then they may need more than just a spotter to assist them. Keep in mind that workers on the ground are no match for a large piece of equipment therefore 100% visibility is a must when vehicles & heavy equipment are being moved.

**The fall season could breed complacency, burn-out & fatigue**

Construction personnel who have completed a summer season push which may have consisted of tight and aggressive work schedules are ready for a break. For some workers it has meant long work hours and working 5-7 days per week for months. These same people may be expected to pick it up a notch to follow through and finish projects before the winter season. This type of schedule can cause workers to experience burn-out and fatigue. With fatigue & burn-out comes complacency. Complacency is extremely dangerous in the workplace. We get so used to things being done the same way that we do not always look at the hazards in our surroundings. We may also underestimate the risks associated with the tasks that we perform regularly or fail to notice a change in our environment when we become complacent in our daily routines.

During the fall season push, there is no room for complacency but instead there must be a renewed commitment to working safe. Always examine equipment, procedures and the hazards that may exist, and focus physically and mentally on your work, no matter how many times you may have done the same job in the past.

Safety Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job Specific Topics: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**TRAINING ROSTER**

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ JOBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**# 36 Safety for the Fall Season 09-01-2024.**

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS COVERED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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