**DROPS Warning**

**DROPPED OBJECTS**

- Winter weather can extend the risk of material impacts.
- Consider the prevailing weather and check advance forecasts.
- Assess the potential for high winds, hail, sleet, snow, fog and poor visibility to increase the risk of potential dropped objects.
- Ensure the hazard effects of weather for dropped objects are identified on the task risk assessment.
- Check areas at height above main walkways and process equipment for potential dropped objects.
- Discuss your site’s previous winter dropped objects, and ensure the right controls are in place to prevent recurrence.
- Ensure adequate lighting of worksite, including scaffolding structures.
- Prepare the worksite by thorough clearance of all snow and ice.
- Clear frost and snow completely from windows, mirrors, lights on vehicles, cranes, forklifts and heavy equipment.
- Ensure any worksite signage, warnings, lighting and barricades are clear and still prominently visible.
- Ensure the worksite is free of snow and ice.
- Wear appropriate footwear for the conditions - boots should be waterproof and insulated.
- Protect the ears, face, hands and feet in extremely cold or windy conditions.
- Wear approved protective clothing, gloves, and hats.
- Clear exposed areas of ice and snow.
- Wrap up warmly - wear several layers for insulation (avoid tight clothing as this reduces blood flow to the extremities).
- Warm hands before using tools or any manual handling and keep hands warm, take breaks and move to warm location - use thermal gloves / liners - limit amount of time outside.
- Wear appropriate footwear for the conditions - boots should be waterproof and insulated.
- Protect the ears, face, hands and feet in extremely cold or windy conditions.
- Wear approved protective clothing, gloves, and hats.
- Ice and snow can build up on structures, derricks, roofs and towers and pose a serious threat to people and equipment below:
  - Regularly clear any build-up of ice or packed snow from structures, walkways, steps, scaffold planks etc.
  - Remove ice and snow from the top of containers, skid bases, forklift pockets and loads prior to loading.
  - Carefully remove icicles, especially when the temperature starts to increase. If icicles cannot be removed, rope off the area below them and put up warning signs and do not stand under areas with icicles above.
  - Be aware that walkways may be clear in the sun but icy in the shade.
  - Be aware that vibration can also shake ice loose.
  - Never place a ladder directly against a gutter covered with ice or icicles the pressure of the ladder against the gutter may cause the ice or icicles to dislodge and fall.

**ICE AND SNOW BUILD-UP**

- More tools and loose items fall, many due to prevailing weather / environmental conditions.
- Ice and snow falling, overloading structures, obscuring hazards and covering equipment.
- Freezing components, materials, structures and equipment.
- High winds adding stress, strain and vibration to structures and impeding outside operations, including cargo handling.
- Poor visibility of potential hazards due to snow, sleet, rain, darkness.
- Manual handling capability compromised by cold temperatures, additional outerwear etc.

**Before All Tasks**

- Secure all equipment.
- Establish routines for inspection before, during and after adverse weather conditions, such as strong winds, high waves, and the risk of ice / falling ice.
- Carry out extra checks on securing devices, rigging used for secondary retention and equipment that may loosen.
- Check windsocks, wind sensors, floodlights, antennas, antenna masts and scaffolding.
- Carefully check that equipment in the vicinity of the helideck is sufficiently secured.
- Check for any loose objects on roofs, load carriers, and in all storage areas.
- Check that lids on storage boxes are secured.

- Structures and equipment should be designed so that water cannot collect and form ice.
- Ensure any worksite signage, warnings, lighting and barricades are clear and still prominently visible.
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**Statistics Show a Significant Increase in Dropped Objects During Winter Months**

For further information visit www.dropsonline.org or contact the DROPS Administration Team admin@dropsonline.org
PRINT AND FOLD...

STEP 1
Print

STEP 2
Fold to 1/2

STEP 3
Fold to 1/3

STEP 4
Fold to 1/3