



A Winter Safety Resolution

From boots to barbecue, Texas does a lot of things well, but functioning safely in ice and snow just isn't one of them. Whether you live in Brownsville or Amarillo, make a resolution to be prepared this winter, and follow these [basic winter weather](#) safety tips.



For Property

- Pipes of all kinds can crack or burst in freezing weather, so proper insulation is a must. In less severe freezing conditions, consider covering outside faucets or letting them drip slowly. They may need to be drained and hoses.
- Extensive damage and water loss can occur when pipes burst in unoccupied or vacant buildings, so make sure to include these structures in your winter walkthrough. Ensuring buildings remains heated may also help prevent issues with freezing. Remember to check buildings that will be closed for the holidays. It's no fun to come back and find water damage from a burst pipe!



For Employees

- Slip-resistant footwear is a must in the workplace during or after a winter storm. Employees should also utilize three points of contact while ascending and descending stairways and entering and exiting vehicles and equipment. Carrying loads in areas where ice has accumulated should be avoided when possible.
- Sand, rock salt and chemical de-icers can help eliminate winter weather slip hazards to a certain extent, but always [evaluate walking routes](#) to make sure employees and the general public are using the safest option in inclement weather. Slippery areas should be dried immediately, and walking surface should be identified with a wet floor marker.



For Drivers

- Use the [Three-Second Rule](#) to control your speed year-round, but don't forget to add a second (or more) of following distance for each hazardous condition you face on the road (low light, rain and ice are perfect examples). Find a safe place to pull over when conditions warrant.
- Car batteries may only have half the cranking power in freezing temperature, and even the best windshield wiper blades may only last six months. Add these action items to your typical auto maintenance checklist, along with a tire tread and winter-ready fluid check.
- Even at temperatures above freezing, [black ice](#) can be present almost anywhere. While it may look like a typical wet spot on the road to the naked eye, it is a winter driving hazard that puts many Texans in the ditch.

Cold weather is often short-lived in Texas, but with preparation and patience, you can prevent an injury and save time from dealing with property or vehicle damage.