

Winter Safety

Winter has brought extreme challenges with this month's freezing rain and snow causing issues across the U.S.:

- Over 350,000 homes and businesses lost power
- Texas encountered their second winter with hundreds of power outages
- A deadly tornado hit Alabama

This season of storms not only impacted the people living in the area. Air travel was halted leaving individuals and shipment of goods delayed across the United States.

However, "sunshine" states are also subject to increased flooding, dry conditions, freezing temps and other impacts from regional elements. When weather conditions impact driving, your organization should plan to account for travel disruptions. Each year, vehicle crashes account for over 1,300 deaths and 116,800 injuries due to winter weather conditions.

Due to the contagious nature of COVID variants, teleworking has become more common. Many schools also use hybrid or remote learning models, which leave working parents to arrange a flexible workday with their employer. This helps in lightly reducing the number of drivers on the road, but what about essential businesses and employees that serve their communities in person and still spend time commuting in seasonal conditions each day?

Let's take a close look at steps you can take to help make sure your employees and organization are prepared for the hazards of winter weather.

COLD WEATHER AND WINTER THREATS

Depending on your regional location, the winter threats that you face can vary. However, many areas face the same or similar hazards! Here is a list of the most common seasonal issues:

- Unsafe driving conditions due to wet roads
- Road closures
- Slip and fall injuries
- Snow shoveling health risks
- Flu and other seasonal illnesses
- Flight delays and cancellations
- Local school delays and closures
- Structural stress and damage
- Fire activity
- Power outages

MITIGATING THE RISK

The good news about the threats and hazards we face each year is that organizations can take steps to mitigate, or even eliminate their impact, through detailed communication. Scheduling Broadcast Messages through Titan HST can help your team prepare for route changes, business closures, or other preparations ahead of pending winter storms.

Did you learn from your local meteorologist that a high-pressure system is scheduled to arrive? Schedule a Broadcast Message to remind your team of your change in business hours, employee schedules, or building protocols ahead of the winter storm.

- [Click here](#) to learn how to schedule a Broadcast Message via Titan HST mobile app
- [Click here](#) to learn how to schedule a Broadcast Message via Titan HST web portal

Titan HST's mobile app has patented mesh-networking built directly into the platform which means, when in range of one another, your important information can be shared even when networks might be down or overloaded!

KEEPING YOUR REMOTE EMPLOYEES SAFE

If you have employees who work outdoors or need to travel, they are more vulnerable to impact by weather issues.

It may be helpful to train year-round on winter work safety precautions and provide them with appropriate equipment and tools they'll need for the season.

Have personnel who drive a company vehicle to perform duties?

- Check for proper tires
- Provide emergency supply kits
- Schedule regular maintenance for each vehicle

When employees are in the elements, they can heighten the danger of injuries and accidents. Help your remote or traveling employees report a vehicle breakdown or other incident instantly by sending a location-based Titan HST alert to get help immediately.

KEEPING YOUR IN-OFFICE EMPLOYEES INFORMED

Anytime of the year, but especially through winter storms, you cannot overcommunicate! Letting your team members know of issues in their workspace is critical. Power outages, downed internet connections, heat or water issues are common bumps in the road along a smooth workday. These all can cause the office to be closed or delayed in opening.

When the office is closed due to weather issues, have a plan to keep your team productive by ensuring that they have access to your remote working policy. You can upload your procedures to the Titan HST Files section and store all essential files that you need your team to have access to at a moment's notice. Connect with team members ahead of time and let them know where they can access your resources via Titan HST mobile app & web portal! Communication is the key to a successful outcome before, during, and after any significant weather event.

- [Click here](#) for a tutorial on how to enable offline access for Files within the Titan HST mobile app so you can be prepared for a situation where there may be no network connection.

SAFETY STATUS CHECKS AND POLLING

One of the best ways to utilize Titan HST is by sending a custom poll or Safety Status Request for both minor and major events.

Poll your team to assess the level of site damage following a storm, materials or resources that need to be replenished, or to query for just plain fun information such as what day they'd prefer to meet for virtual team building.

- [Click here](#) for a tutorial on the Polling feature via Titan HST's mobile app
- [Click here](#) for a tutorial on the Polling feature via Titan HST's web portal

In the event an incident does occur, send a Titan HST Safety Status Request via app and text message to learn the employee's safety status and their exact location to send resources if needed. This saves valuable time and reduces friction when an emergency happens.

- [Click here](#) for a tutorial on the Safety Status feature via Titan HST's mobile app
- [Click here](#) for a tutorial on the Safety Status feature via Titan HST's web portal

BEING PREPARED IS NOT JUST FOR SCOUTS

The old scouting motto of being prepared is not just for them; it is for us all to remember! As winter weather is upon us, having a plan to keep communications up with your team is critical. Drilling and testing your plan is essential. You cannot control the weather, but you can prepare for the impact!

REFERENCES

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