

Message from the Western New England University Safety Committee

Winter Storm Considerations

Winter snow and ice storms will be here before you know it. Our Facilities Management staff works tirelessly to keep the Campus safe, but these storms can make the University sidewalks, parking lots, and streets slippery. At times the Campus will have snow accumulation rates that can quickly cover snow removal efforts. Often following a storm there are numerous incidents of slips and falls reported to Human Resources. These incidents can involve serious injury and require significant time and therapy for healing.

The Western New England University Safety Committee would like to highlight a few proactive steps you can take in order to help prevent these slips and falls from occurring. Pay attention to the local weather to stay informed. When possible plan your activities to minimize the need to be outdoors when snow or ice is forecasted. On days where snow or ice is in the forecast, and for several days following snow or ice, please consider the following:

- Wear the proper footwear. This means boots or shoes with good traction and deep treads. Consider footwear that can be laced, is waterproof, and has rubber outsoles. Carry with you stylish (indoor) footwear to change into once you reach your office as necessary.
- Make plans to leave yourself extra time to get where you need to be. This will enable you to more cautiously deal with potentially hazardous conditions.
- Drive more slowly and keep a greater distance between yourself and the car in front of you. Do not maneuver (i.e. brake, accelerate or turn) your car aggressively.
- Step down carefully onto the pavement once you have parked your car. The asphalt can be slippery and your movements will need to be more controlled and balanced.
- Walk slowly and take shorter steps while outside. If possible, keep each step lower than normal to help maximize your balance. Keep your eyes in front of you and be on the lookout for dangerous ice.

Thank you for your consideration.