Put a Freeze on Injuries

Loading docks and terminal yards can be dangerous places at any time of the year. The combination of trucks, forklifts, ledges, steps, stacked freight, pallet debris, rollup doors, and pedestrians increases the risk of struck-by and slip, trip, and fall injuries. When you throw winter weather into the mix, the risk can get even worse. Snow, ice, sleet, mud, and rain reduce traction. Less sunlight, fog, and road salt create visibility problems. Employees may be rushed to meet the increased demands of holiday shipping. These conditions make injury prevention seem impossible, but it is achievable.

TIPS TO LIVE BY

Increase visibility
- Maintain loading dock and terminal yard lighting.
- Keep vehicle windows and mirrors clean.
- Wear hi-visibility reflective clothing.

Prevent slips
- Add a snow and ice removal plan to your company safety program.
- Keep the interior of the loading area clean and dry.
- Install anti-slip safety mats in loading area walkways.
- Clean and dry dock boards or plates after use.
- Wear anti-slip footwear.

Prevent falls
- Inspect loading dock door seals and close doors when the dock is not in use.
- Install dock locks to prevent trailer creep.