

Dear All,

Winter working:

Folks, winter is on its way, complete with the problems that go with it such as low temperatures leading to frost, ice and, if the last two years are anything to go by, snow.

Most sites will have their own system for deciding when it is unsafe to work, so in this bulletin I will concentrate on working in the cold.

You need to wear appropriate clothing, preferably multiple layers so if you get hot you can take off a layer or two.

Do not show up for work in just a tee shirt.

Inspect the areas you working to make sure it is clear of ice.

Remember that LPG bottles ice up in lower temperatures and the pressure is much lower, so allow more time for melting. Do not use a gas gun to warm the bottles and do not touch any metal with bare skin.

Make sure you keep your gloves on.

Exclusion Zones

When you are carrying out hot works, whether it is a carpark or a roof you must ensure that that the area you working in is properly segregated and you have created a safe exclusion zone that only G.A personnel may enter.

Unless the GA supervisor has been informed that other trades will be working in the vicinity there should not be any non-GA staff within the exclusion zone.

If anybody then enters the area you must politely ask them to leave. Unauthorised people in the exclusion zone are a danger to you and themselves.

Cutting paving slabs

Cutting slabs is not common practice for us, but we do occasionally have to do it. Here are the guidelines for their safe cutting:

Make sure you have the correct PPE (i.e. gloves, goggles and boots)

You must cut them using water and continue to use water throughout to keep air borne dust to a bare minimum.

When you have finished cutting, make sure your off-cuts are cleared away and you clean the area well enough that your work is not apparent.

Do not leave power tools plugged in unattended!

If anyone has a health & safety concern or something to contribute to our newsletter, please feel free to speak to Gregg Ellis on 07956 235880.