

Winter Safety – Snow & Ice Grips

As we all know during the winter months the temperature drops which at times results in ice or snow. This creates poor underfoot conditions and can lead to slips & falls. NHS GG&C has both a moral & legal responsibility to ensure staff safety, so far as is reasonably practicable, whilst at work and to implement suitable control measures to prevent such incidents / accidents. Staff also have a personal responsibility to take care of their own health & safety.

Risk Assessment

The Health & Safety Management Manual Holder for each service / department should ensure that a suitable & sufficient risk assessment is undertaken for slips, trips & falls. This assessment will determine what control measures are required. If staff regularly undertake work out in the community or travel / move between sites / buildings then inclement weather must be considered as part of the assessment. [Click here.](#)

Control Measures

During periods of adverse weather the service / department should only undertake essential community visits / movements between sites. Other controls identified as part of the risk assessment may cover clearing snow / ice & gritting on NHS premises, reporting / rectifying damaged grounds, staff taking care and following the principles of dynamic risk assessment and appropriate footwear to be worn.

Snow & Ice Grips

These snow / ice grips are designed to be placed over the sole of your shoes to provide a degree of protection from slips & falls when walking over snow / icy conditions outdoors. This is regarded as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). These may be identified as a control measure however we are required to;

- Avoid the need for PPE, using only when other controls aren't suitable
- Select PPE to fit users and protect them adequately
- Inform / train staff on when and how to use the PPE properly
- Check that PPE is used appropriately and record any issues / maintenance etc
- Review periodically how well it protects against the hazard
- Ensure adequate stock of PPE is available

Procuring / Ordering

It is the responsibility of the Health & Safety Management Manual Holder to identify suitable controls required as part of the risk assessment process. This may include snow / ice grips however the equipment selected must be suitable and adequate for the tasks undertaken and the environment they are used in.

Snow / ice grips can be ordered from Procurement.

User Guidance - Snow & Ice Grips

Snow and ice grips are for use in cold weather conditions that results in snow / ice underfoot and therefore give a degree of grip while walking on such conditions.

Fitting Instructions

- It is important to follow manufacturer's instructions in full when putting on, using and removing the grips.
- As a guide – wearers should place the grippers on the ground - grips facing down, place the front of your shoe in first and pull the gripper on.
- Ensure the grips are safely and securely on covering the full shoe.



Precautions

- The wearer should ensure that the grips they are using are in good condition, fit appropriately and are effective. Report any issues / incidents to your line manager and complete a datix.
- The snow / ice grips will improve traction on several outdoor winter surfaces including snow, ice, mud and rock.
- The ice grips must always be removed before coming indoors.
- Remove before driving vehicles also.
- Not to be used when climbing ladders / step ladders or other access equipment.
- Extreme caution should be used on any hard or polished surfaces such as steel, ceramic or polished granite.
- ***Ice grips cannot prevent all slips or falls and caution should always be taken when walking on ice or snow underfoot conditions.***



The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended) sets out duties on employers to ensure that PPE is:

- Supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health & safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways
- Properly assessed before use to ensure it is suitable
- Maintained and stored properly
- Provided with instructions on how to use it safely and
- Used correctly by employees