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Electrical Work
for Electrical Workers

**International Brotherhood
Of Electrical Workers**

**Local Union No. 176
Joliet, Illinois**

December 10, 2020

Brother and Sisters,

Last month the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) moved the entire state of Illinois into modified Tier Three COVID-19 resurgence mitigations. With these new mitigation measures in place, we are unable to hold our union meeting this month. As this pandemic continues, we have seen an increase in the number of members and retirees contracting or being exposed to COVID-19. We have had several members and retirees require hospitalization because their cases became so severe. Unfortunately, I am sad to share the news that we had a retiree pass away from COVID-19 related complications earlier this week. Hopefully with the recent news of highly effective COVID-19 vaccines starting to become publicly available, we can get through this pandemic and get back to life as normal. Until we can get to that point, please practice measures to be as safe as possible as we all confront this virus.

The health and welfare trustees, after repeated unresolved issues with TASC, have elected to use a new provider for our Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), which includes a new provider of our HRA debit cards. You will receive your new HRA debit cards in the next couple of weeks and they will become active on effective January 4, 2021. You will be able to swipe your card at the point of purchase and eligible expenses are paid automatically with smart technology, which draws funds from your specific account. In order to switch to the new HRA provider, there will be about a two-week period in which data from TASC will be migrated over to our new provider. This means that the TASC Card will be active until December 15, 2020. **After December 15, 2020, your TASC debit card will no longer work.** Again, your new card, which will arrive in the next few weeks, will be activated on January 4, 2021. You will receive additional information on the new HRA debit card which was mailed out this week from our health and welfare office.

Since June of this year, we have been operating with only two, instead of our normal three, full-time office staff employees. We have made adjustments due to being short staffed while dealing with pandemic mitigations pandemic, maintaining a high level of functionality in the office. For those who do not know, Sharon Jameson will be retiring from our office staff in May 2021. To facilitate a smooth transition after Sharon's retirement, we have hired a new employee who has started training and working with Sharon and Margaret for the next several months, who then will be able to take over Sharon's position when she retires. I am pleased to announce that LeeAnn Revis has joined our administrative staff. LeeAnn has a proven record working in both the private and public sector, has a master's degree in public policy, and has served for 12 years as a member of her local school board. I've personally worked

with LeeAnn as she has served as seasoned campaign operative and as a legislative staffer for labor-friendly elected officials, including Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Natalie Manley, and Mike Hastings. LeeAnn will bring broad-based professional skills, a deep understanding of the legislative and policy issues that impact labor, and an ability to provide efficient, friendly service to our members. She will be an asset to Local 176 and I hope you will join me in welcoming her.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic mitigations in place, we will not be able to hand out retiree awards and years of service pins at our December union meeting as has been traditionally done. Instead, we are both hand delivering and mailing these awards and pins out to everyone. When the mitigation restrictions are lifted sometime next year, and we are able to conduct a normal in person union meeting, we will recognize every retiree who received an award and every member who received a years of service pin at that meeting.

On another note, we changed how we will distribute the 2021 pocket calendars this year. We have had issues with the post office bulk mailing these calendars out over the past few years. Due to customer service issues with the USPS, we have begun handing out calendars to members when they come to the window to pay their dues. We have also been mailing the calendars to individuals who choose to pay their dues online or by mail. We are tracking which members have received their calendar and we are working our plan to ensure every member receives a calendar.

The other business agents and I are once again working through the membership list and calling members to check their and their family's well-being, as well as gather information and resolve any issues that might be out there. We are still working through grievances with Meade and Tri-City, trying to come to a resolution on pay for members who have missed time due to this pandemic. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation towards every member of this local for everything you have all done to deal with this pandemic. Illness, both physical and mental, brought on by this pandemic and the challenges of dealing with the subsequent mitigations have created tremendous stress. As we move forward as a local in these trying times, stay unified, stay safe, and watch out for each and every brother and sister on the job. I would also like to extend best wishes for the holidays, and for your health and happiness throughout the coming year.

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J Clemmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael J Clemmons
Business Manager

Business Agent, Apprenticeship, and Safety reports are as follows:

Jim Lockhart

Book count for Thursday, December 10, 2020

77-Book #1

449-Book #2

3-Residential

10-Sound

2-Apprentices

1-IT

Portability count commercial – 79/1

Portability count residential – 0/1

175- Bk 2 working in local, 167 JW, 8 ST

61- JW long calls, 36 went to BK-2

15- JW Short calls, 8 went into BK-2

3- RW long calls

0- RW short calls

9- Sound Long Calls, 5 went into BK-2

0- Sound Short calls

24- Apprentice Calls

There are 75 out of town contractors reporting in the jurisdiction as of tonight.

Andy Rico

Joliet - At 2022 Essington Rd., D'Arcy Buick/GMC is expanding their dealership and service center. They are adding a 1,000 space parking lot and a 15,000 sq. ft. service center. Indicom is onsite doing light pole bases for the parking lot and moving secondary feeders off of the transformer.

At 1700 Spencer Rd., the ComEd Headquarters is adding several HVAC units and a fully redundant UPS system. Currently there are 10 electricians working on that project for Hartmann Electric. The initial completion date for this job is May 2021. Hartmann may be looking to add a second shift.

At 3200 Channahon Rd., Electrical Design Systems is working on a new construction trucking rental facility consisting of a 12,000 sq. ft. building and 40 acre parking lot.

At 2114 S. Frontage Rd., Local 130 Plumbers are adding a separate 12,000 sq. ft. building. Connelly Electric currently has 2 electricians onsite. The scheduled completion date for this project is April 2021.

On the corner of Theodore and Drauden Rd, Executive Construction is constructing a new Gas & Wash facility. Nucore Electric is the electrical contractor doing this project.

At 2959 Centerpoint Way, BCU Electric is doing the electrical work for new conveyor lines at the Home Depot Regional Distribution Facility. This project was scheduled to be completed by December 2020, but there have been several equipment and material delays and the project deadline has been pushed back.

The Tower Apartments at 247 Caterpillar Dr. is doing a \$2 million remodel project. Rex Electric has this job.

Amita St. Joseph Medical Center is remodeling a portion of a 4th floor wing to add new CT scan rooms. Jamerson Bauwens is doing that work and will man it with 4-5 electricians.

At 2848 McDonough St., the IDOC In-patient facility; Block Electric has approximately 35-40 electricians working.

City Services Electric is doing the temperature control work and currently have 7 electricians onsite.

Live Wire Electric has 6 electricians working at the Administration building.

The VDV work is scheduled to begin ramping up in the coming weeks and months. Low Voltage Solutions has the bulk of that work.

At 2705 Plainfield Rd. (Rt. 30), Prairie Construction is nearing completion of construction for the new Chick-fil-A restaurant. American Electric is doing the electrical work on that project.

Meade Electric continues work on the IDOT Des Plaines river bridge project, reworking the bridgetender house and cabling for 6 bridges. They will be manning it with 4-8 electricians periodically. Torres Electric is doing the fire alarm work on this project.

At Centerpoint Logistics/Business Park, Connelly Electric has manned up to approximately 25-30 electricians at Harbor Freight's nearly 2 million sq. ft. warehouse. Connelly is the VDV contract for this project. Local 176 has referred out 3 sound techs and Connelly may be looking to hire a few more as the project continues. The conveyor portion of this work is out for bid and should be awarded in the coming weeks.

On McKinley Ave., Elliot Electric is working at the Joliet waste water treatment plant. That work is expected to be completed early in 2021 with manpower fluctuating periodically.

Continental Electric has completed a 2.4 megawatt ground mount solar tracking system at Chicagoland Speedway. The developer was extremely pleased with the performance and partnership between Local 176 and Continental Electric. They are looking forward to partnering on upcoming projects in our area.

At 2500 Centerpoint Way, Sievert Electric is installing a new crane rail system at the Union Pacific rail yard. Currently they have 18 electricians onsite combined between their VDV and Inside/JW scope of work.

The State Group Industrial is working on a couple pumping/ metering stations on Brandon rd. feeding into the Jackson Generation Power Plant. They currently have 5 electricians working between the 2 projects and may add more manpower depending on scheduling. These projects should remain busy through December.

Plainfield - At 15320 Wallin Dr., Plainfield School District 202 / ICI Construction has the new elementary school directly south of Ira Jones Middle School under roof. Indicom Electric has this job.

At 13921 S Route 59 between 143rd St and 135th St., The Redmond Company is moving dirt for the future home of Rod Baker Ford currently located on Route 30 in Plainfield.

Elwood - The Jackson Generation project on Noel and Brandon Rd. is in the cable pulling phase and installing raceways above ground on the electrical side of things. Currently there are approximately 130 electricians combined between day and night shifts working on that project. Manpower is expected to continue to ramp up through the winter months and hold steady through the spring and summer months. Elliot Electric has the electrical contract for the Administration building.

Bolingbrook - At 1150 115th St., Connelly Electric is doing a 450 light fixture upgrade for IDI logistics. This project is scheduled to be complete by mid December.

On the corner of 119th and Dalton Rd. near the Bolingbrook Country Club, Northern Construction is doing site and utility work for a multi-tenant warehouse development. No contracts have been awarded yet for the warehouse build-outs.

Romeoville - At 489 W. Taylor Rd., Power Construction is moving dirt for a new spec warehouse directly south of the Crate & Barrel warehouse. Connelly Electric has been awarded the contract for this job.

Preferred Electric has been contracted to install a 1.5 megawatt solar array at Lewis University. This work was initially delayed, but work has finally commenced. Currently, Preferred has 20 electricians working on this project.

Crest Hill - At 20600 Kubinski Dr., just north of Menards and directly east of the Crest Hill Public Library, construction has begun for the new Crest Hill City Center/Police Department. The City of Crest Hill is direct hiring subcontractors and has contracted Timm Electric to do the electrical work for that project.

On the corner of Caton Farm Rd. and Perinar Dr., Narvick Brothers construction has walls up for Low Voltage Solution's new shop. Ideal Electric will be the electrical work on that building.

Naperville - At 2244 W. 95th St., Johnson Construction has the new Compass Church under roof. Nesko Electric is onsite with 6 electricians and they will be looking to hire a couple more after the holidays. This project is scheduled to be completed in May 2021.

Scott Smith

Meeting Report 12/10/20

NEW LENOX - Indicom Electric has all the new traffic lights along Rt. 30 in New Lenox.

Connelly Electric picked up tenant buildout at Cherry Hill Business Park located at 1200 Ellis Rd. This is good for a couple guys for 3 months.

The new Metra Station located on Rt. 30 and Cedar Rd., Volt has a couple guys in and out on this project. The job is scheduled to be finished by January 2021.

Garden Electric has some remodel work at Union School District 86 on Cherry Hill Rd.

Precision Control has a build out for Dr. Kulig Dentist Office located at 196 North West Highway.

Timm Electric has a couple guys at a new shop for Aries Earth Moving Construction. This is just south on Cherry Hill Rd.

Silver Cross has a 30,000 sq. ft. expansion. Block Electric has been on site for a few months or better and they have the power distribution and second floor. Titan has just picked up the first floor along with Sharlen picking up the 4th floor. A lot of projects being bid at Silver Cross coming in the spring. Emergency room expansion, along with Cancer Care Facility and fifth and sixth floor expansion.

Hy-Power Electric out of 134 has the West End Tool facility. This is a 80,000 sq. ft. industrial building. Finally under roof. This is located at 2253 New Lenox Rd. They cleared in a couple guys last month. Depending on the schedule, probably hiring by the end of December.

LOCKPORT – J.B Contracting is finishing up the Holiday Inn Express this month in Lockport, it consists of 81 units at 54,000 sq. ft. It is located at I-355 and 159th St. This project only took about six months to complete.

Brown Electric has some remodel work at the Lockport High School.

HOMER GLEN – Hawk Enterprises has various traffic signal work in the area.

Nucore Electric has the Gas and Wash on the corner of 159th St. and Gougar Rd.

GS Electric out of 134 has school work at Oak Prairie Junior High at 15161 S. Gougar Rd.

MOKENA – At 191st and 88th Ave., Altorfer Power Center is putting in a new Caterpillar sales and service center. Northern is the general contractor and Connelly Electric is the electrical contractor. They have few guys on site as of last week. COVID-19 precautions have the G.C limiting only 10 people in the building per day.

On the corner of Rt. 30 and Owens Road, Palos Health Care Center. It consists of 3 stories and is 50,000 sq. ft. Walsh is the general contractor. Sharlen Electric was awarded the job in the late spring. They have 6 guys on site, It's been a slow-paced job as of right now, looking like seven or eight guys for about 6 months depending on the schedule. Completion date is supposed to be in March or so.

Atomatic Service has some lighting upgrades at Mokena Intermediate School located at 11331 W. 195th St.

TINLEY PARK – Nucore Electric has the new Food and Fuel located on 183rd St., finishing up gas station portion next week. Adding a car wash next month.

FRANKFORT - On Wolf Rd. and Rt. 30, Cedarhurst Senior Living consists of 56 living apartments and 26 memory care apartments. All Electric out of West Frankfort, IL Local 702 took this away from Bates Electric out of St Louis, MO. All Electric only cleared in one guy and currently has four from us. The owner is very impressed with Local 176.

Residential – Plainfield on Wallin Dr. has an apartment development. This project is called Sixteen-30, luxury lifestyle apartments with 248 units. Cary Electric out of Local 117 was awarded this job a few months ago. They started roughing last month, they currently have eight guys on this project. This is the largest residential project we've seen in over 10 years.

Barry Aldrich

Channahon – We stopped out at the new spec warehouse that just broke ground on Amoco Road, a Medidian project, they tell us Nesko has been awarded the electrical for that project.

LTS of Illinois will be out at the new Love's Truck Stop on Bluff Road, for some VDV work on that one.

Kelso- Burnett has picked up some work in the Amazon distribution facilities within the jurisdiction, starting out in both Channahon locations they will be onsite installing arc flash protection in the MCC's.

Morris – Abco is now onsite at the new 1.3 million sq. ft. Procter & Gamble warehouse going up north of Morris along Rt.47. They should man up to around 15-20 guys with a 15-18 month duration out there.

Four Star Electric has two guys now cleared in for some remodel work going on at the DaVita Dialysis facility on Creek Drive.

Sharlen Electric is now working at the GE/Hitachi Plant on Collins Road, they have a crew of VDV techs installing a new camera system.

Also, on Collins Road out at the CPV – Three Rivers Energy Project, MJ Electric is now onsite hooking up the trailers and the site temp power. They have six onsite now. We also spoke with Kiewit this past week and they are still on track with hiring in mid-January to early February for the duct bank portion of the job.

Braidwood – Yesco had one tech working on the sign at the BP located along Rt.113 & Rt.53.

We had a few calls come in about a MKD van out in the parking lot at the Braidwood Nuclear Plant, after putting calls into Exelon and reminding them that MKD is not a signatory contractor, Exelon was kind enough to escort them off site!

Wilmington – At the new drugstore along Rt. 53 across from the VFW, we were able to get Blackburn Electric in there towards the end of the remodel, and then Friendly Signs to install the new sign out front.

Mazon – 4MC was at the BP along Rt.47 & Grand Ridge Road working on the apron above the gas pumps.

The local currently has three new Dollar General stores being built, they all had the same non-union electrical contractor in First Phase given the work. We started off with pickets in Channahon and then moved onto filing a misclassification of worker complaint with the Department of Labor. On Monday we received a call from Schmidt Electric saying that they were onsite in Channahon fixing all the mistakes that First Phase had made, then they were moving on to Essex to do the same, and then hopeful to get the entire Mazon store. So that was some great news there!

I would like to thank the following members for stepping up and taking the steward positions over the past few weeks. Barry Boyle at the Braidwood Nuclear Plant for Allied during a small mod they had going. Shawn Shultz on the solar project in Gardner for Pieper Power, and Stan Rutherford out at Lyondell for Meade.

And finally I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, along with continued good health through this pandemic.

Deric Wilkins

Beecher - A new fire station addition is going up. Timm Electric has the job.
A solar array is going up on Corning Rd. PDC Electric out of Monroe, Wis.is doing this non-union.

Bourbonnais – Bill Kay Honda addition/remodel job. Schmidt Electric has this project.

Oak Orthopedics Center on Rt. 45 & 6000RD in Bourbonnais is putting up a new \$15 million building. They have broken ground and Balanced Load Electric out of Naperville has this project.

Riverside Orthopedics \$25 million new med building in Bourbonnais. Ruder has that project.

St. George School in Bourbonnais Is doing a 10-classroom addition. Ruder Electric has that project, completion date is the end of July 2021.

Bradley- The DMV is moving into the Village Square Shopping Center on Rt. 50 and North St. A small job; Keast Electric has this project.

Kankakee – Kankakee High School is looking to add and remodel classrooms as well as its swimming pool. Bids are going out now. It's around \$2 million. Project starting in 2021.

KCC is going to remodel their staff lounge and add an office. Small job, about \$66K, no electrical contractor yet.

The Kankakee Housing Authority has a remodeling project and Outsen Electric has this job.

The traffic signal project throughout the city is being done by Outsen Electric, as well.

CSL Behring is moving slow. There is talk about taking down the existing steel and just doing storage. There is also talk of starting a waste-water treatment plant.

Riverside Hospital remodel job is starting to come down, Ruder still has a few guys on site.

New solar project ,2 megawatt going up on South Schuyler; Keast Electric has this project and it is near completion.

A new solar array is going up just east of town on 2700RD. E. Borrego Solar has given the job to MKD.

There are multiple solar arrays going up in the area, some are good, some are not.

The new Dollar General going up on Jeffery St. has been completed by Schmidt Electric.

Nucor Steel – Com Ed is putting in a new substation. Intren Electric has that project. Moving very slow.

Manteno – Peoples Bank is building a new facility next to McDonald's. Process Electric has the project.

A new O'Reilly Auto Parts is going up. Schmidt Electric has that project.

The Manteno Veterans Hospital is putting in a new back-up generator and considering a new fire alarm system. Ryan Electric has the generator project.

University Park - The new Amazon is going up at Steger Rd. and Central Ave., Clayco is the general. The electrical contractors are ABCO, MJ, and Austin Electric is doing the parking lot lighting.

Local 9 is putting up a new crane training facility. Linear Electric has that project. This project is near completion.

Watseka – Walmart is doing a small remodeling job, Schmidt has this job. The city is putting in 3 new generators and Outsen Electric has this job.

Floyd Jones

OTTAWA: Halm Electric was awarded the addition to Rosen's on Route 23 North of Ottawa. Gatza Electric has the contract for the new Clean Getaway Car Wash going in next to Culver's in Ottawa, they have most of the underground done and are waiting for the building to get closed in. Financial Plus Credit Union is planning on building a new Credit Union across the street from the existing one on

Chestnut Street. They are moving dirt on the project, but the electrical has not been awarded yet. The General Contractor is The Redmond Company from Waukesha, Wisconsin. Wilcox Electric from Local 197 was awarded the service and parking lot lighting for the new Starbucks that is going in next to Culver's on Route 23. The interior has not been awarded yet. That project will be starting in January.

OGLESBY/UTICA: Rock River Electric from Local 145 was awarded the next phase at GreenThumb Industries. They have the steel up and are putting the roof on now. They hired a couple JW's and an apprentice last week. They will possibly be taking more manpower after the first of the year depending how the job progresses. That project will go through the winter and into next spring. The HVAC project at Illinois Valley Community College in Building G was awarded to Gatza Electric, the low voltage part was awarded to CEIS from Local 34. That project is just getting started and will run through the holidays.

PRINCETON: Gatza Electric was awarded the new Advanced Asphalt building going in by the Bureau Junction on Route 26. Vissering Construction is the General Contractor, that project is just getting started and will go through the winter. Halm Electric has 2 JW's and an apprentice at the new Bureau County Law Enforcement Center; that project is continuing to move slowly. Oberlander Electric from Local 34 has picked up a job installing power for Amazon Lockers placed outside at different Road Ranger gas stations in our jurisdiction. JB Contracting was awarded the remodel of the Advanced Asphalt building in Princeton, that project is just getting started and will run through the winter.

LASALLE-PERU: Gatza Electric is continuing to work on the remodel for the Double D warehouse in Peru, and Advanced Data Technologies has picked up the low voltage work on that project. Grand Kahn Electric from Local 134 was awarded the new \$16 million dollar Peru Police Station. There are 6 JW's out there now. That project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. J-Horn Electric from Local 34 has the remodel of the old Dairy Queen on the corner of Route 251 and 38th Street in Peru. They are turning that into a Jimmy John's. They have 2 guys there now and that project is getting close to finishing up. Tri City Electric from Local 145 was awarded a job at the HyVee grocery store in Peru. They will be working on adding new self-checkout lanes.

SPRING VALLEY/LADD: JMS Electrical has the remodel at the McDonald's in Spring Valley. That is around a 3 week project. Hart Electric from Local 146 has a project updating the control wiring at the Ameren Metering station North of Ladd, that is a 3-4 week project.

KEWANEE/BISHOP HILL/WYOMING: Rock River Electric was awarded a job for a new maintenance building by Kewanee for the Bishop Hill Windfarm. That is around a 2 month project. H&S Mechanical from Local 34 has been awarded another project at FMC in Wyoming. They are installing a new Motor Control Center, they have 2 guys there now and could possibly take 1 or 2 JW's after the first of the year depending how the job progresses.

GALVA: Rock River Electric from Local 145 picked up a job at the Lincoln House Apartments in Galva. It is mainly Life Safety work and there are a couple weeks left on that project.

Also, I wanted to take a minute and thank all the apprentices and JW's that came out and volunteered their time to different functions in the communities throughout this year. It was very much appreciated. I can tell you that from all the feedback I received from the different organizations that we helped this past year that they were very grateful and impressed how IBEW Local 176 stepped up and helped out. Healthy Wishes and Happy Holidays!

Chris Lindstrom

To start out, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a very safe and prosperous New Year. I congratulate all of you who are receiving years of service pins and/or retirement awards this year. Your commitment to the IBEW is an inspiration to all of us.

On the organizing side of things, this year was productive. We were able to strip 6 new members away from non-union contractors. 4 were taken into the apprenticeship program and 2 were taken in as VDV techs. We continue to engage with unrepresented workers daily to try and find future new members. The dedication and professionalism of the men and women of Local 176 is a huge selling point to the people we talk to, I thank you all for the help in that regard.

Local 176 has had occasion to stand up pickets many times this past year. I'd like to thank the Sisters and Brothers that have braved the elements and the pandemic in order to assist in those efforts. Also, a big thanks to Tom Daufenbaugh and the rest of the Picket Committee for the help they have rendered in all of that.

In closing, I will say that this year has been a struggle for all of us, however, our continued solidarity will undoubtedly see us through. The Brotherhood has weathered hard times before, and it will withstand this as well. **Happy Holidays and Joyous New Year to everyone.**

Matt Kenney JATC

2020 is almost a memory. The year for us at the JATC has been filled with many challenges, as it has been for everyone. Thank you all for the understanding and the willingness to work with us as we continue to evolve and try to get past this unprecedented world pandemic.

The end of November brought the end of the application period for the February 2021 interviews. We will be busy gathering everyone's information and getting aptitude tests administered soon. If you know anyone that will be getting an interview, you are encouraged to send a letter of recommendation to our office.

We recently made the decision to return to remote learning, which was not an easy choice. We made our decision based on the positive cases increasing and close contact. The entire staff is doing an amazing job of juggling time to make this happen. The apprentices should not be missing any full days until we go back to in-person learning. The instructors are teaching both days and nights via Zoom. Tests are given at various times of the day to minimize missed work.

Please take time to appreciate your families and loved ones. Remember, tough times do not last, but tough people do. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Kenny Sanderson – Safety Committee

Prepare for Winter Driving

Winter is here, and with it are serious driving and working dangers. From rain and ice to sleet and snow, driving in the winter requires focus and preparation.

Get Your Vehicle Ready for Winter Roads

Preparation is key to staying safe on winter roads, where storms can increase risk and leave drivers stranded. Before every drive, ensure you know the route and your vehicle is prepared for the conditions.

Start by checking the weather along your route. Though it may be inconvenient, hold off on driving until a storm passes. If the weather is manageable, OSHA recommends familiarizing yourself with the directions ahead of time, letting others know your route and planned arrival time, and leaving early. Even without a storm on the horizon, feeling rushed can lead to speeding and other risky habits. Talk to your supervisor about these situations, including whether your workplace has a severe weather policy, so you know how to react to an impending storm.

It is also important for your vehicle to be regularly inspected by a trained mechanic. A safety checkup should include the condition of systems such as:

- Ignition
- Brakes
- Wiring
- Hoses and fan belts
- Spark Plugs
- Air, fuel, and emissions filters, and PCV valve
- Distributor
- Battery
- Tire wear and air pressure
- Antifreeze level and freeze line

Check with your mechanic to understand the maintenance schedule for your vehicle and ensure these systems are functioning correctly. You should also check your vehicle's emergency kit for the following supplies.

- A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Snow shovel, snow brush/ice scraper, and cat litter for traction
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Reflective vest, triangles, and brightly colored cloth to make your vehicle more visible
- First aid kit and blankets
- Drinking water and nonperishable, high-energy foods such as unsalted nuts, dried fruits and hard candy
- Cell phone charger
- Windshield washer fluid

Supplies like these will be vital if you become stranded. Learn more about the supplies to keep in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

Once your supplies and vehicle are ready, take a few moments before each drive to warm the vehicle up in an open-air space. This is a great time to clear the windows, lights, external mirrors, roof and sensors of any snow, ice, or other debris. Though it is tempting to clear only a small patch of the windshield, this can be incredibly dangerous for you and other drivers. Use your snow brush/ice scraper to clear off the entire vehicle so that you can see in all directions, other drivers and pedestrians can see your lights, and the vehicle's sensors can properly detect hazards.

Stay Safe While Driving in Inclement Weather

When driving on winter roads, keep one thought in mind: take it slow. Sleet, ice, and snow can make even short drives dangerous, including on roads you know well. Limit your speed and keep plenty of room between vehicles so you can respond quickly to hazards. Brake earlier than usual in inclement weather, and use the proper lights as needed (fog lights can be helpful when it is actively snowing). This is particularly important when driving in work zones, where workers may be at higher risk.

Once you arrive at your destination, choose a parking spot free of ice. When you get out of the vehicle, keep an eye out for traffic, and to avoid slipping, OSHA recommends insulated, water-resistant boots with good rubber soles. Even with proper footwear, try to keep your hands free for balance, and stay on treated, flat sidewalks as much as possible. Similar to driving, take it slow while walking in winter conditions so you can respond safely to hazards.

This is also a good time to ensure your vehicle is ready for future winter drives. In cold weather, keep your gas tank at least half-full and regularly check tire pressure, as it tends to drop with the temperature. These simple steps will help you stay safe on winter roads.

Learn the Basics of Cold Weather Safety

Cold weather is more than just an inconvenience. Without the right preparations, it can be dangerous and even deadly. Whether you are stranded on a winter road or simply working outside, take precautions to prevent injury from frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite comes from exposure to extremely cold temperatures and can lead to permanent tissue damage and amputation. It is usually associated with fingers and toes, but also is common on ears, nose, cheeks, and chin. According to the CDC, the first sign of frostbite is unusual skin redness. If exposure to cold continues, symptoms can include:

- Numbness
- White or gray-looking skin
- Skin that feels waxy or unusually firm

Hypothermia is caused by prolonged exposure to low temperatures or cold water and can start in temperatures as high as 40 degrees Fahrenheit. When your body temperature gets too low, your brain is affected, and you may not be able to think clearly or move well. This is especially dangerous because you might be unable to make good decisions about getting out of the situation that is causing hypothermia. According to the CDC, other signs of hypothermia include:

- Shivering
- Exhaustion
- Drowsiness

- Memory loss
- Slurred speech

Learn the stages of hypothermia and how to respond to these symptoms.

For these injuries, a co-worker or family member might be more likely to notice early symptoms than the victim. Don't be afraid to say, "You look bright red, let's get out of this weather for a bit," or "Can we go somewhere warm? My toes feel numb." Learn the do's and don'ts of these dangers to keep yourself and your co-workers safe.

In winter conditions, the right clothing can go a long way toward keeping you safe. Wearing several layers of loose clothing is good for insulation, as tight clothing can reduce blood flow to your extremities. Be sure to protect your ears, face, hands, and feet, take frequent breaks to warm up, and use the buddy system to keep your co-workers safe. Talk to your supervisor or safety manager about additional precautions in your workplace and speak up whenever you need supplies or assistance.