



Fall Environmental Safety Hazards

The Fall season is upon us, bringing not only cool crisp air and holiday celebrations, but also seasonal safety hazards. Be aware of potential risks and stay situationally aware in order to stay safe at work, at home and while commuting.

Daylight Savings Time Ends:

As days get shorter more people will be active after dark when visibility is limited, creating a greater risk for vehicle and pedestrian accidents, as well as presenting more opportunity for crime.

- When driving be cautious and pay extra attention to other vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, etc. Stay alert and do not drive when fatigued.
- When walking, running or biking outdoors in the early morning or evening be sure to dress properly and have reflectors and lights to ensure that you are clearly visible to vehicles.
- When leaving home, the office or any other location after dark, stay in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings when entering/leaving.

Weather Changes:

Seasonal weather changes create additional environmental safety hazards.

- Leaves on the ground can create a slipping hazard, especially wet leaves. Be sure to clear walkways and entrances to buildings.
- Fog may be present while driving. Drive slowly and use your low beam headlights.
- Ice and snow present safety hazards for both drivers and pedestrians; use caution and slow down.
- As the weather gets colder, ensure heating sources are operating properly and do not present safety or fire hazards.
- Lower temperatures can lead to frost bite or hypothermia for individuals spending long periods of time outdoors without appropriate warm clothing; be sure to wear layers and be adequately prepared for outdoor activities.

Storm / Hurricane Season:

Hurricane season continues through the end of November. Coastal residents should prepare in advance for damaging and potentially deadly tropical storm systems that can produce tornados and flash floods.

- Have a hurricane supplies checklist ready and stocked.
- Plan an evacuation route. Contact the local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter and ask for the community hurricane preparedness plan.
- Make arrangements for pets as well as family members in the event of an evacuation.

Flu Season:

Flu season begins in October and is compounded this year by the ongoing COVID-10 pandemic. Minimize the risk to your own health and that of others.

- Get a seasonal flu shot.
- Practice good hygiene and regularly sanitize frequently touched surfaces.
- Maintain social distancing practices: limit your contact with others, stay at least six feet away from individuals who exhibit symptoms, and stay home if you are sick.