

### What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Back and muscle strain from manual handling



Thermal discomfort from exposure to cold



Slip injuries from icy surfaces



Inhalation injury, burns, skin irritation from salt



Impact injuries from collisions with moving vehicles



Trip injuries from, uneven surfaces or hidden obstructions

### What PPE should the individual wear?



## Snow clearing and grit or salt spreading on walkways and vehicle access routes

### Safety Task Card STCGE 21

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

### Safe System of Work

1. Wear suitable protective and thermal footwear and clothing, including a high-vis vest or jacket.
2. Erect suitably located warning signs or barriers to warn people and prevent unauthorised access when clearing and gritting are in progress. Additional signs will be required for steps.
3. Clearing should only take place during daylight hours.
4. Avoid lone working where possible. If working alone, notify a nominated contact of where you are working and carry a fully charged mobile phone or a radio to check in with the contact at frequent intervals.
5. Do not clear snow or grit/salt areas in extreme weather conditions.
6. If using salt, follow the safety precautions in the COSHH Product Assessments for the product being used. This includes wearing PPE such as protective eye wear and gloves.
7. Clear snow as soon as possible after it has fallen, before it has been compacted by pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
8. Be aware of potential hazards that may be hidden under snow.
9. Pay extra attention around steps and steep walkways.
10. Clear 2-3m stretches of snow and then apply grit or salt. Do not clear long stretches without gritting them.
11. Keep tools tidy and ensure they do not become a trip hazard.
12. Face traffic when clearing vehicle access routes.
13. Stand back when traffic is passing in close proximity and be aware of any abnormal traffic behaviour.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified and control measures required to manage these.

## Snow clearing and grit or salt spreading on walkways and vehicle access routes continued

Safety Task Card  
**STCGE 21**

### Safe System of Work continued

14. Take regular breaks in a warm area and have warm drinks.
15. Push snow where possible and adopt good manual handling practices when lifting it.
16. Hold the snow shovel as close to your upper body as possible to minimise arm movement.
17. Do not twist your upper body as you throw snow.
18. Use manual handling aids, such as a wheelbarrow or trolley, if transporting salt or grit, and if snow has to be removed.
19. Never leave equipment unattended in public or residents' areas and return it to the designated storage area after use.
20. Ensure the area is completely clear before removing signage.
21. Wash and moisturise hands after finishing the task.

**NOTE:** If appropriate, advise cleaning services before performing this task as slip-resistance of internal flooring may be affected and extra precautions may need to be taken.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.