

Preparing Your Fleet and Team for Winter

Winter can be tough on both vehicles and operators. With winter approaching, now is the time to make sure everything and everyone is ready. Below are a few tips to make sure you have a successful and safe winter season.



FIT YOUR VEHICLES WITH THE RIGHT ACCESSORIES

You don't want to be caught off guard when it comes to sudden snow storms. Make sure to fit your Polaris Commercial vehicles with the accessories needed to help you get the job done. Full cab systems, tool holders, and proper lighting can make or break a job.



TEST AND INSPECT WINTER ACCESSORIES

Make sure all of your winter accessories work properly prior to needing them. By greasing all necessary areas and checking all bolts and connections for proper tightness, you will save you and your team from a lot of heartache when the first storm hits.



PERFORM REQUIRED MAINTENANCE ON VEHICLES

A reliable and well maintained vehicle is essential for cold weather jobs. Make sure that any required maintenance is performed on your vehicle to ensure that you can reliably and safely get the job done – batteries, grease all zerks, check suspension and frame for any worn out parts or stress cracks.



STORING YOUR VEHICLE AFTER USE

Be sure to read your owner's manual on best practices for cold weather vehicle storage. If you are operating an electric vehicle, make sure that it is either fully charged or plugged in when the vehicle is not being used. For optimal performance, store in a heated garage where temperatures remain above 32 degrees. For diesel and gas vehicles, consider investing in block heaters to allow for easier and more reliable morning engine starts.



TRAIN YOUR TEAM ON WINTER DRIVING

Does your team know how to properly operate the vehicles in winter conditions? Plan routes around your property or campus that doesn't have steep hills or terrain to prevent spinouts and possible dangerous situations. Also, be sure to plan time at the end of each shift to inspect and fix any parts that may have broken, as well as clear away any snow or ice buildup in wheel wells and foot wells.



COMMUNICATE YOUR EMERGENCY WINTER PLANS

Make sure the entire team knows the emergency winter plan. When a sudden storm hits, having a staff that can react quickly will eliminate downtime, confusion and a potential unsafe environment for pedestrians and motorists. Also consider having a part-time employee call list on file in the event of larger storms where you may need a few extra personnel to help clean up.