

Health, Safety and Environment

Lessons Learned

April 2017, NG-LL-17-08

Employee Falls on Ice/Snow

Subject: Uneven walking surface and poor lighting conditions lead to rolled ankle

Situation: While walking between two outdoor locations on a remote Arctic Research Station, a worker stepped on an uneven surface, the resulting rolled ankle led to a fall and first aid treatment. Weather conditions at the time were such that the definition in the ice/snow was not easily identified. The employee recovered quickly and did not require any further treatment or restriction to duty.

Lessons Learned: Due to the very nature of work in the Arctic, our work family members frequently traverse by foot on snow/ice covered surfaces. It is paramount that workers discuss this pre-task, and maintain a high level of awareness when navigating uneven walking surfaces. This hazard is amplified when light conditions and blowing snow make visual detection of the surface anomalies difficult. Employees need to remain aware of the hazard and always proceed with extra caution when the weather creates this scenario.

Recommendations Constantly raise awareness of fall hazards, use tools such as this lessons learned document and the images (good light vs. poor light) below as talking points and share/talk frequently about the risks faced.



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