

Spring Safety Checklist for Warehousing Employers

Spring weather can introduce new hazards in warehouse environments. This checklist ensures a safe and efficient transition into the season.

Facility & Equipment Maintenance

- ☒ Inspect warehouse floors for cracks, potholes, or uneven surfaces caused by winter damage.
- ☒ Check for leaks in the roof and walls, especially after heavy rains.
- ☒ Ensure loading dock doors, bay doors, and roll-up doors are functioning properly.
- ☒ Clean and inspect HVAC systems to improve air quality and prevent overheating.
- ☒ Inspect racking systems for stability, rust, or damage from winter conditions.
- ☒ Ensure proper lighting in aisles, dock areas, and outdoor spaces.
- ☒ Remove any standing water near entryways to prevent slips.

Worker Safety & Training

- ☒ Conduct refresher training on forklift and pallet jack safety, emphasizing wet or slick floors.
- ☒ Reinforce proper lifting techniques to prevent strain injuries.
- ☒ Train employees on severe weather response, including tornadoes, floods, and high winds.
- ☒ Ensure PPE (gloves, back braces, safety vests) is in good condition and appropriate for warmer temperatures.
- ☒ Encourage hydration and awareness of heat-related illnesses for workers in warmer sections of the warehouse.

Outdoor & Loading Dock Safety

- ☒ Inspect parking lots and walkways for potholes or drainage issues.
- ☒ Check dock levelers and dock plates for wear and proper operation.
- ☒ Ensure loading areas are clear of standing water, ice remnants, or mud.
- ☒ Secure outdoor storage items that could be affected by wind or rain.
- ☒ Verify truck restraints, wheel chocks, and dock seals are in working order.

Inventory & Material Handling

- ☒ Review and update storage procedures to account for seasonal product changes.
- ☒ Inspect shelves and storage racks for overloading or shifting materials.
- ☒ Ensure proper ventilation in areas storing chemicals or hazardous materials.
- ☒ Check conveyor systems for obstructions or signs of excessive wear.

Emergency Preparedness

- ☒ Review and update warehouse emergency action plans for severe weather events.
- ☒ Test emergency lighting, alarms, and backup power sources.
- ☒ Ensure fire extinguishers and first aid kits are fully stocked and accessible.
- ☒ Conduct seasonal safety meetings to remind employees of weather-related risks.

By implementing these proactive measures, warehouse employers can create a safer work environment for the spring season.