

Safety Matters



State of Delaware

Issue CCXXIX

February 2026

Insurance Coverage Office

Using Weather Mats Correctly

Here are some recommendations for using weather mats to enhance safety.

- Place weather mats at all entrances.
- The length of the mat needs to capture as much moisture from shoes as possible (often, mats are too small to be effective).
- Keep porous mats outside so they absorb snow/ice from footwear.
- Use relatively rough mats in foyer areas.
- Use more absorbent walk-off mats to remove moisture.
- Change mats once saturated; walk-off mats should be cleaned frequently.
- Once a walk-off mat becomes filled with soil or liquid, the contaminant will then transfer to the soles of shoes and spread throughout the facility.
- Place shoe brushes at entrances to remove snow and ice.
- Where applicable, provide space and facilities to allow employees to change footwear upon entering the building.
- Maintain floors and post caution signs where slip and fall conditions prevail.

Weather Mat tips appear courtesy of PMA Industries



Remember to walk like a penguin when on ice

Are you using Angry Orange at home or at work?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a recall notice for Angry Orange Enzyme Stain Removers sold in 24 oz, 32 oz and 1-gallon sizes.

The products can contain bacteria that may enter the body through inhalation, through the eyes, or through a break in the skin.

Consumers can use the following link to contact the company, get more information and request a refund:

<https://angryorange.com/pages/productrecall>



Can you store food outside when the power goes out?

No, frozen food can thaw if it is exposed to the sun's rays even when the temperature is very cold. Refrigerated food may become too warm and foodborne bacteria could grow. The outside temperature could vary, and the temperature outside will not protect refrigerated and frozen food. Additionally, perishable items could be exposed to unsanitary conditions or to animals. Animals may harbor bacteria or disease; never consume food that has come in contact with an animal. Rather than putting the food outside, consider taking advantage of the cold temperatures by making ice. Fill buckets, empty milk cartons or cans with water and leave them outside to freeze. Then put the homemade ice in your refrigerator, freezer, or coolers.

Go to the USDA website for more info: [Keeping Food Safe During an Emergency | Food Safety and Inspection Service](https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety-and-inspection-service/keeping-food-safe-during-emergency)

3 things to keep in your car this winter:



Red Cloth

Flashlight

American Red Cross

Safety Focused



Image Our workplace safety is built on attentive employees focused on the task at hand, and personal electronic devices can play an unfortunate role in creating workplace accidents. Too many workers think that they can safely perform their jobs while talking on the phone, texting or listening to music. Unfortunately, these actions are more distracting than most realize.

Don't let the use of personal electronic devices lead to injury. Do your part to keep distractions out of the workplace.

Key safety measures for managing electronics and distractions at work include:

- **Prohibit Usage During High-Risk Tasks:** Cellphones should never be used while operating heavy machinery, forklifts, or vehicles.
- **Eliminate Earbud Use:** Headphones can block essential safety, such as warnings from coworkers or alarms, and should not be used in active work zones.
- **Establish Clear Policies:** Agencies must create and enforce strict electronics policies, identifying safe zones for phone usage and training staff in these requirements.
- **Encourage "Digital Detox":** Encourage staff to turn off notifications and avoid checking personal messages, texts, or emails during work hours to maintain focus.
- **Create Structured Breaks**
- **Maintain Situational Awareness:** Raise awareness of how personal electronic devices can lead to distractions.
- **Potential Consequences:** Distracted workers can cause, for example, property damage, injury, or fatalities.

Article appears courtesy of Zywave



Do you know about the Be DelAWARE Safety Campaign?

In 2023, The DelDOT Leadership Academy was tasked with creating a new safety awareness campaign to connect with the public after 2022 saw a near record number of fatalities on Delaware roads. The result of this effort by this group of DelDOT employees is the Be DelAWARE campaign. Safety should be everyone's priority and by being DelAWARE we can ensure lives are not tragically lost on our roads.

"Toward Zero Deaths" is a national strategy on highway safety to advocate for eliminating serious injuries and deaths on our nation's roadways, and that one death on our nation's roadways is too many, and we must all work together to bring the annual number of roadway deaths down to zero.

Get the facts at: [Be DelAWARE Safety Campaign - Delaware Department of Transportation](#)

Upcoming Webinar

The ICO conducts monthly webinars on various safety topics open to all employees.

Please Join Our Monthly Webinar on "Driver Safety," February 12th, at 9:00 am, search the title on the DLC or click this link:

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)