



Safety Alert Bulletin SAB002

Operation on Snow and Ice

Winter has its grip on many areas of the country, leaving snow and ice on the ground. Cold and snow cover does not stop line work. The damage from ice and snowstorms increase the workload and urgency to finish repairs. It also brings in new crews, who work long hours, to help restore power and repair damage from broken poles, downed wires, and fallen trees.

Do not jeopardize your safety by bypassing safe work practices. Safe work practices are even more important to follow when the crews are cold and tired. Your injury, death or equipment damage is not worth the time saved rushing to complete the work.

Operation on snow and ice add an additional problem due to the slippery conditions. Normal traction is greatly reduced. Just as you need to maintain traction to walk and drive, it is required to keep Digger Derricks and Aerial Devices in a stable position. Rotating and moving the booms may cause the truck to jerk and move. If the unit is not set up securely the truck can slide on ice and snow while operating.

When planning your work remember that driving in snow causes snow dust to be deposited on all surfaces. The outriggers and outrigger pads will get snow covered and slippery. Also, as you put pressure on snow, the snow packs down and turns to ice.

The person setting the unit up for operation has the entire responsibility for a stable position. The person on the site is the only one who can evaluate the conditions and terrain.

Proper set up requires:

- Outriggers do not slide on the outrigger pads during use.
- Outrigger pads do not slide on the ground during use.
- Set the parking brakes
- Chock wheels as required, to prevent movement down hill. Evaluate chock location to prevent the truck pivoting around one chock.
- Set units with one set of outriggers so all tires are on the ground.
- Evaluate the terrain to determine the most flat and level set up position.
- Set up truck so if the truck does move slightly, the result isn't catastrophic.
- Follow Operators manual for set up instructions. Do not place outriggers on Ice as slippage may occur regardless of solid footing.

To properly set up you may need to:

- Remove snow and ice down to bare ground to prevent sliding and to evaluate the support available. Don't set outriggers on a manhole cover or the edge of a slope or drop off.
- Move as far as required into the street or road so if the truck does move, the tires and outriggers will not slide into the ditch or other hazards.
- Choose a location for the truck that gives the best stability for the work to be done.
- Come back later, to do the work, if the roads are not cleared sufficiently.
- Use traction aids under the tires and outriggers such as sand and gravel or mats.
- Operate the unit smoothly by "feathering" the controls, not jerking the levers.