



Press release:

Date: December 2018

## **Don't get caught out this winter**

*UK Safety Experts offer businesses advice on how to plan for extreme weather this winter*

Three red weather warnings have been issued by the Met Office since 2011, two of which occurred between 28<sup>th</sup> February and the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, making last winter one of the most severe in a decade. <sup>1</sup> [Arco](#), the UK's leading health and safety expert, wants to encourage individuals and business owners to prepare for the worst.

With the prolonged periods of snow last winter delivering up to 20 inches overnight in some places, <sup>2</sup> and already severe flooding of up to 10ft in parts of the UK, <sup>3</sup> Arco is urging businesses to plan ahead this winter. To offer assistance, the safety expert has a number of expert advice sheets available online for businesses to download, to aid in the planning, preparation and clean-up of extreme weather events including [snow](#) and [flooding](#).

During spells of extreme weather, Arco is encouraging businesses to make it a priority to keep up with the changing forecast. There are several resources available when preparing for extreme weather, such as the [Met Office weather warning service](#), providing warnings for rain, thunderstorms, lightning, fog, wind, ice and snow and the [Environment Agency warnings](#) for flooding which is particularly important for high-risk flood area.

Niall Robinson from Arco says: "its vital businesses ensure they are covered for when the weather turns, especially as storm 'Deidre' approaches. We want to ensure our customers are prepared and safe during the winter months, which is why we have a comprehensive range of solutions to keep workplaces both safe and open, including quality products and expert advice. The team here at Arco are on hand throughout the season to offer guidance to local businesses."

Notes

## **Flooding**

The impact of flooding on a business can be devastating, not just because of the initial damage on the property and its contents but the affect it can have on safety and hygiene standards. It was estimated that the winter flooding of 2015/2016 cost the UK £1.9 billion with businesses worst hit at around £616 million that winter alone.<sup>4</sup> Arco advises that it is best to take measures early to prevent this by creating a flood action plan, which includes clear instruction for vulnerable employees, a pack of useful documents and a kit of essential items if a flood should occur. By ensuring a plan is put in place early, businesses can ensure they have sufficient on-site protection, such as sand bags or flood barriers, which according to the Environment Agency, could save businesses up to 90% of the cost of flood-damaged equipment.

## **Snow and Ice**

As 2017/18 saw extremely high levels and incidences of snow, Arco is insisting businesses plan ahead this winter by creating a business continuity plan to minimise the impact of snow and ice. This includes stocking up on the necessary workplace safety items, including de-icing salt and ensuring any spreading equipment is checked and in full working order. Arco's expert guide to salt spreading is available to download at [www.arco.co.uk/winter](http://www.arco.co.uk/winter) and provides businesses with best practice advice on salt, when it is most effective and how to spread effectively. To support this, Arco has a Salt Calculator app available on both the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#) which can be used for a variety of purposes such as calculating the amount of salt required for each site per application or per season.

This winter, Arco has also created a free handy [infographic](#) for businesses containing: winter safety statistics, weather data, myth busters and some random seasonal facts available to download for workplaces.

For more advice about extreme weather or to view the products that Arco would recommend for flooding and winter please visit: <https://www.arco.co.uk/flooding> <https://www.arco.co.uk/winter>.

ENDS

**Products**

Salt and Winter products will be featured on the winter landing pages [www.arco.co.uk/winter](http://www.arco.co.uk/winter) and [www.arcosafety.ie/winter](http://www.arcosafety.ie/winter) and will include:

Salt and salt spreading equipment:

- De-icing salt
- Coloured De-Icing Salt
- Winter Wizard
- Drop Salt Spreaders, Hand Pushed and Towed Spinner Salt Spreaders

Other winter products

- Snow shovels and scoops
- Grit Bins (UK only, not Ireland)
- Entrance matting
- Car accessories
- Heaters and torches

Flooding protection and clean-up products are featured on our flooding landing pages [www.arco.co.uk/flooding](http://www.arco.co.uk/flooding) and [www.arcosafety.ie/flooding](http://www.arcosafety.ie/flooding) and will include:

- Flood Barriers and Hydrosacks
- Door Barriers and Toilet Panseals
- Water and Mud Removal Hoses and Pumps
- Personal Protection: Eye Protection, Coverall, Gloves, Waterproof Suits, Waders and Wellingtons
- Cleaning and Sanitising: Cleaning Wipes and Cleansers, Squeegee/Brooms and Buckets & Mops

<sup>1</sup> Met Office

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/2018/storm-emma-red-warning>

<sup>2</sup> The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/01/beast-from-east-storm-emma-uk-worst-weather-years>

<sup>3</sup> Sky News

<https://news.sky.com/story/power-cuts-and-flooding-hit-parts-of-britain-11549831>

<sup>4</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/672087/Estimating\\_the\\_economic\\_costs\\_of\\_the\\_winter\\_floods\\_2015\\_to\\_2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672087/Estimating_the_economic_costs_of_the_winter_floods_2015_to_2016.pdf)

## About Arco

Arco is the UK's leading safety company and has a core purpose of keeping people safe at work. Through its dedicated in house experts, Arco helps to shape the safety world in order to ensure UK workers go home safe every night. It distributes a world-class range of over 170,000 quality assured, branded and own brand products, including personal protective equipment, workwear, safety footwear, gloves, workplace safety and hygiene products. It also provides professional services encompassing training, consultancy and site services.

Headquartered in Hull, Arco reaches its customers through its extensive product catalogue, interactive website and 47 strong retail store network.

The company has sales of over £287m and employs approximately 1600 people nationwide.

Arco is committed to providing safety equipment that is genuine and compliant with relevant standards and regulations. To do this, it has a five step product assurance process and is the only safety distributor with an independently accredited testing laboratory. Additionally, it is a member of the BSIF Registered Safety Suppliers Scheme.

Founded in 1884 and with a heritage spanning four generations, Arco demonstrates traditional family values and is dedicated to its Corporate Social Responsibility policy. It continually demonstrates its support of local business communities and charitable organisations, donating in excess of 1% of pre tax profits annually. In 2007, Arco became a member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) incorporating their internationally recognised code of labour practice into its own ethical policy and in 2010 became a member of Sedex, the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange. To ensure ethical standards are continuously met throughout its supply chain, Arco carries out regular audits amongst all suppliers and, working with the ETI and other regulatory bodies, the company plays a leading role in helping to eliminate modern day slavery across the globe. For more information, visit [www.arco.co.uk](http://www.arco.co.uk).