

Contact: Martin Docherty
SAPC
Phone: (0141) 280 0122 /
07796865621
Fax: (0141) 941 0887

Arcadia Business Centre
Miller Lane, Clydebank, G81 1UJ
www.sapc.org.uk
secretary@sapc.org.uk

SCOTTISH
ACCIDENT
PREVENTION COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

Scottish Accident Prevention Council Calls for Caution during Present Weather Conditions

As Arctic Conditions Predicted to Last till January 2011 Council calls for Caution

Glasgow, December 7th 2010: With continuing arctic conditions predicted to last till January the National Council is asking the communities of Scotland, public, private and voluntary to plan ahead.

Commenting President of the Council, Brian Topping (Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership);

“Across the length and breadth of the country localised weather conditions are creating unpredictable situations which staff across the country are dealing with valiantly; yet with predictions of snow unable to identify local conditions we are finding even the heaviest forecasts are falling short of the true nature of snow fall. Agencies must ensure that communication remains open across the board if the country is to be properly prepared.”

Chair of Road Safety Cllr Charlie Gilbert (East Renfrewshire Council);

“Transport users must plan well ahead and ensure that before setting out they are equipped for the possibility of heavy snow fall, in addition the Transport Network must ensure that drivers have access to clear information at the earliest opportunity. From coordinating school closures to closing roads early Councils and their partners must not add to the burden of those already stuck on the transport network”

Commenting on the impact of an early winter the Vice-Chair of the Home Safety Cllr Clare Adamson (North Lanarkshire Council) called for coordinated action;

“We are already noticing recorded deaths directly linked to present weather conditions. We must work together to ensure that vulnerable members of our communities are assisted at this time in their homes,

from ensuring heated homes to good insulation. In the weeks ahead we will need to use all of the tools in the box to ensure that our communities remain safe and warm"

With increasing numbers of sports enthusiast hitting the ski slopes and seeking a winter hike in the coming days and weeks the Chair of Water & Leisure called for considered and measured action to ensure safe access to the winter sports fields of Scotland;

"From ensuring road access to sports venues in cities to providing adequate warnings of avalanches partners across Scotland must up our game to ensure that our reputation in winter sports safety remains high, users and winter sports athletes must have confidence in our systems. Scotland must coordinate its actions across sports and winter pursuits from skiing to walking the dog ensuring that people are informed and able to make informed choices. Even at this early stage of winter incidents related to winter pursuits are being reported only recently the emergency service have been called to rescue a dog from a Loch in Milngavie, East Dunbartonshire, placing the emergency services at great risk."

For more information on how to remain safe during the winter please visit the SAPC website: sapc.org.uk

SAPC is Scotland's leading accident prevention body