

Winter Operations & Safety

PROJECT PREPAREDNESS & FIELD PROTOCOLS

Steadfast Services Northwest LLC • Serving WA, OR & ID

CERTIFIED WBE / DBE / SBE

100% Injury-Free Record

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Woodland, WA

To Our Clients & Project Partners: As winter weather arrives across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, Steadfast Services Northwest LLC is committed to keeping your projects moving forward safely, efficiently, and without unexpected weather downtime. Our proactive field protocols ensure full regulatory compliance, site safety, and seamless execution on every job site.



Transport & Mountain Pass Logistics

- **State Chain Law Compliance:** Heavy support vehicles carry mandatory chain sets for Washington (WSDOT), Oregon (ODOT), and Idaho (ITD) mountain passes.
- **Remote Site Drive-Time Buffers:** Mobilization schedules account for extended transit times, pass delays, and speed restrictions when traveling to remote field locations across OR, WA, and ID.
- **Proactive Route Planning:** Crews monitor pass condition advisories daily to ensure on-time site arrival while maintaining strict highway weight/safety limits.
- **Pre-Trip Mechanical Audits:** Air lines, brakes, sub-zero fluids, and winter fuel additives are verified prior to mobilizations.



On-Site Safety & Freeze Protection

- **Freeze-Lock Prevention:** Field vehicles use wheel chocks instead of mechanical parking brakes during sub-zero overnight holds to avoid frozen brake shoes.
- **Air-Knife & Vacuum Clearance:** Soft-dig utility clearance systems are winterized to operate in freezing ground without site downtime.
- **Job-Site Slip/Fall Controls:** Crews maintain 3-point contact on rigs and salt/sand work zones, auger racks, and sampling points.



Passenger Vehicle & Light Truck Safety

- **Parking Brakes vs. Chocks:** Avoid setting mechanical parking brakes overnight in sub-zero weather to prevent frozen brake shoes; chock tires on flat ground instead.
- **Lift Wiper Blades:** Lift windshield wipers up when parking overnight to prevent rubber blades from freezing and tearing on ice.
- **Cold Weather Fluid Checks:** Verify windshield washer fluid is rated for sub-zero temperatures and keep fuel tanks at least half-full to prevent fuel line freeze.
- **Remote Transit Care:** Maintain an emergency kit (blanket, flashlight, water, traction sand) in passenger vehicles when driving to remote field locations.



Joint Site Preparation & Access

- **Access Clearances:** Ensure site gates, locks, and access roads are plowed or cleared of heavy snow drifts before mobilization.
- **Soft Ground Conditions:** Notify our project managers if thaw/melt cycles create soft or muddy limited-access roads.
- **Utility Staking:** Verify utility markings remain visible under snow cover prior to vacuum excavation and drilling.
- **Ice Traction & PPE:** Client staff visiting sites are encouraged to wear slip-on boot ice spikes and high-visibility thermal layers.



MANDATORY HIGHWAY & PASS CHAIN LAWS (WA, OR, ID)

Washington (WSDOT)

Vehicles over 10,000 lbs GVWR must carry tire chains on mountain passes Nov 1 – Apr 1 regardless of road conditions. Drive axle chains mandatory when posted.

Oregon (ODOT)

Commercial vehicles and heavy rigs must carry chains in designated snow zones. Conditional rules require chains on drive axles and trailing units.

Idaho (ITD)

Chain controls strictly enforced during severe mountain storms. Chains or studded tires are required on drive wheels when posted on passes (check ITD 511).

NOVEMBER 1 – APRIL 1 MANDATES



Client Pre-Mobilization Checklist for Winter Sites

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ Site access plowed / clear | ☐ Utility marks visible in snow | ☐ Gate locks thawed / accessible |
| ☐ Water sources freeze-protected | ☐ Staging area sand/salted | ☐ Emergency contacts updated |