Stephensons Offers Tips to Pedestrians for Safe Journeys During Cold Snap

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Stephensons Solicitors have provided a series of helpful tips for pedestrians as the MET Office issues severe weather warnings for many parts of the UK.

Snow, ice and gale force winds are expected, in addition to heavy fog. This means that the conditions throughout the country could be conducive to slips, trips and falls.

With years of experience in the field, Stephensons Solicitors know all there is to know about accidents on defective pavements, footpaths or highways. All visitors to public places, including stores, schools and places of work have a legal right to be kept safe. When the owners and operators of premises fail in their duty of care, accident victims could be entitled to compensation.

But as Head of Personal Injury, and Partner at Stephensons Solicitors, Kate Sweeney explains pedestrians should take extra care when travelling on foot during inclement weather; and there are a number of simple ways that they can look after themselves along the way.

She said: “During a cold snap, employers and landowners have a responsibility to ensure that snow and ice do not create hazards on public footpaths, around entrances and exits; and through car parks.

“But accidents can happen, and the best way to safeguard oneself during a big freeze is to wear the right clothes and take extra care.”

Stephensons Solicitors have compiled a short list of tips for pedestrians during winter. They are as follows:

1 - A pair of solid shoes with decent grip won’t simply keep you warm. They’ll provide the sure footing you need when snow and ice set in.

2 - It is important to avoid black ice spots which can build up on pavements or on roads. Even appropriate footwear can lose grip on this surface and accidents could also affect others, particularly if you fall into the road.

3 - Wear bright, reflective clothing on dark evenings to ensure that oncoming cars are aware that you are there. It may even be necessary in some areas to carry a light.

4 - Take into account that cars take longer to reach a complete stop on slippery winter roads. Take your time and where possible only cross roads at pedestrian crossings when it is safe to do so.

5 - Be predictable. Stay off the road wherever possible and do not cross suddenly.

6 - Making eye contact with oncoming drivers is a great way to ascertain if they are aware you are there.

7 - Alcohol can impair motor skills and judgement just as much on foot as it can behind the wheel. There are plenty of reasons to get out and celebrate throughout winter; but it is important to do so responsibly with your safety and the safety of others in mind.

Unfortunately, accidents do happen; particularly in bad weather. But if you are injured in an accident which was not your fault you could be entitled to compensation.

For more information, call 0333 344 4772, or pay a visit to Stephensons Solicitors LLP

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