

# THE COLD TRUTH:

## Combating Cold Stress with DRIFIRE® FR Apparel

When winter strikes, industrial and utility workers face not only demanding tasks but also dangerous conditions. Cold stress is a silent, persistent threat that impacts worker safety, health, and productivity. DRIFIRE® understands these challenges and provides advanced flame-resistant (FR) apparel designed to keep workers warm, dry, and protected when it matters most.



### UNDERSTANDING COLD STRESS

Cold stress occurs when the body is unable to maintain its normal temperature due to prolonged exposure to cold, wind, and moisture. Workers, who often work in extreme winter environments, are particularly vulnerable to these hazards. Left unchecked, cold stress can lead to serious health risks, including:

#### **HYPOTHERMIA:**

A dangerous drop in body temperature that can be life-threatening.

#### **FROSTBITE:**

Freezing of the skin and tissues, which can cause permanent damage.

#### **TRENCH FOOT:**

Extended exposure to cold and wet conditions, leading to pain and swelling.

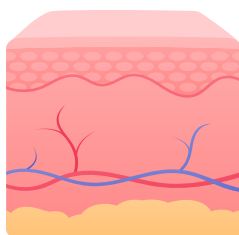
#### **REDUCED DEXTERITY AND PRODUCTIVITY:**

Cold affects motor functions, making work harder and slower.

#### **ACCORDING TO OSHA,**

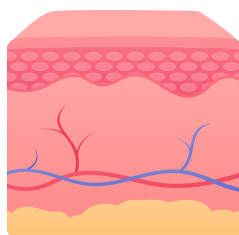
*"What constitutes cold stress and its effects can vary across different areas of the country. In regions that are not used to winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered factors for 'cold stress'."*

### Stages of Frostbite



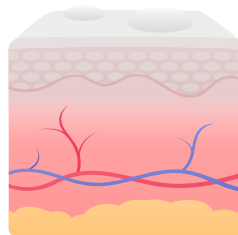
Stage 0

**Healthy Skin**



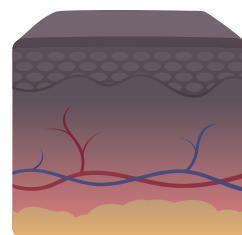
Stage I

**Frostnip**



Stage II

**Superficial Frostbite**



Stage III

**Deep Frostbite**

## THE IMPACT OF COLD STRESS

### WORKER HEALTH

Prolonged exposure can cause long-term health issues, injuries, and even fatalities.

### SAFETY RISKS

Decreased motor skills and focus increase the likelihood of accidents on the job.

### PRODUCTIVITY LOSS

Cold, uncomfortable workers tire quickly and are less efficient.

### WHAT WORKERS NEED TO COMBAT COLD STRESS

Mitigating cold stress requires a combination of protective apparel and smart work practices. Workers need safety gear that:

**MAINTAINS WARMTH:** Provides insulation against the cold without unnecessary bulk.

**MANAGES MOISTURE:** Prevents sweat buildup to keep workers dry.

**ENSURES MOBILITY:** Allows for full range of motion to perform tasks efficiently.

**MEETS SAFETY STANDARDS:** Offers flame-resistant protection and compliance for hazardous environments.

Without proper gear, workers are left exposed to risks that could jeopardize their health and productivity.

## CHOCTAW-KAUL HAS YOU COVERED TO TACKLE THE COLD WEATHER SEASON:

We offer a broad selection of **DRIFIRE® FR** apparel to keep you comfortable and protected in cold, hazardous environments. We offer innovative FR clothing that combines warmth, moisture management, and flame-resistant protection to ensure workers stay safe, comfortable, and productive during the winter months.

### KEY FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF DRIFIRE® FR COLD WEATHER GEAR

#### RELIABLE INSULATION:

DRIFIRE® FR apparel provides essential warmth without restricting mobility, keeping workers protected from cold stress.

#### INCREASED RANGE OF MOTION:

Ergonomically designed to allow workers full range of motion, no matter the task.

#### MOISTURE-WICKING TECHNOLOGY:

DRIFIRE® fabrics pull moisture away from the body, preventing sweat from chilling workers in cold conditions.

#### FLAME-RESISTANT PROTECTION:

Meets industry safety standards, helping to protect workers from fire hazards on the job.

### FEATURED PRODUCTS

#### FR BASE LAYERS:

Essential for moisture control and insulation.



#### FR OUTERWEAR:

Jackets and hoodies designed for superior warmth and weather protection.



#### ACCESSORIES:

FR balaclavas, headgear, and more for complete coverage in extreme conditions.

