



## November 2018

### Practicing Continuous Learning

Now that winter weather is approaching, another opportunity to improve safety culture would be establishing a strong line of communication to raise awareness about potential safety hazards. For those railroads that are affected by adverse weather conditions such as ice, snow, and freezing temperatures, hazards such as slips, trips, and falls may be possible. Maintaining a strong safety culture necessitates a learning environment where opportunities to improve safety are continuously sought out and implemented. Having weather-related messages or a communication program in place provide a method to raise awareness that may prevent an injury or accident in the future. Two of the Ten Core Elements of a strong safety culture involve clear communication and continuous learning, and by establishing a communication system about potential hazards on your property you can strengthen these elements in your organization.

#### **Ten Core Element Reference:**

#### **The Railroad Practices Continuous Learning**

Maintaining a strong safety culture necessitates a learning environment where opportunities to improve safety are continuously sought out and implemented. Railroads must be open to learning from accidents when they do happen and willing to make changes to prevent incidents in the future.

#### **Effective safety messaging includes:**

- Clear topics of awareness that improves overall safety;
- Communicating and promoting trust throughout the railroad to ensure safety when potential seasonal hazards exist;
- Establishing a point of contact to call for resolution if a hazardous condition is spotted;
- Offer preventative actions to take if conditions are observed;
- Relate messages back to safety and how to avoid injury or accident;
- May generally relate to previous learning opportunities where a hazard was present and fixed

*For more safety tips, please see our website, [www.shortlinesafety.org](http://www.shortlinesafety.org)*