



PRESS ADVISORY

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The City of Nashua Department of Building Safety is again urging building owners to remove snow from their roofs. For those that have not done so yet it is very important to remove as much snow as possible prior the next predicted storm this coming Saturday through Sunday.

The Nashua region has had several storms accumulating over 77 inches of snow since the beginning of January and significant amounts of snow have collected on roofs. High winds have accompanied these storms causing snow to drift on roofs collecting in valleys, around roof top equipment, and in areas where roof elevations differ. These snow drifts can create densely packed snow depths that can create significant “snow loads” (weight) or “unbalance snow loads” that may be beyond the design of many roofs.

The prediction for this weekend is for warmer temperatures that could result in a “wetter” and heavier snow and rain, potential amounts as yet are not known. The existing snow will absorb the rain becoming extremely heavy. This added weight on many roofs that are already near or at the maximum design load can cause a sudden and sometimes catastrophic failure of the roof system.

Older buildings, especially those with flatter roofs have a greater risk of roof collapse. But even peaked roof buildings with dormers and valleys and those that have equipment on the roofs create areas where snow can collect and overload the roof system.

If you experience any of the following indicators you should immediately evacuate the building and notify your local building official, fire department, or contact a structural engineer to determine if the building is safe:

- Sagging roof steel – visually deformed
- Severe or new roof leaks
- Cracked or split wood members
- Bends or ripples in metal supports
- Recent cracks in drywall or masonry
- Cracks in welds of steel construction

- Buckling of interior walls
- Sprinkler heads pushed down below ceiling tiles
- Doors that pop open
- Doors or windows that become difficult to open
- Bowed utility pipes or conduit attached at ceiling
- Creaking, cracking or popping sounds

Property owners should avoid climbing onto roofs and it is recommended that property owners hire a fully insured roofing contractor to remove snow and ice from roofs and gutters. A number of roofing contractors can be found in phone directories or on the internet.

It is especially important that owners of flat roof commercial or industrial properties make certain roof drains and overflow drains are kept cleared or thawed if frozen.

Property owners are also reminded to clear snow from all exit doors as well as from heating and dryer vents, especially after removing snow from roofs. Snow should be cleared from vents at all times to prevent possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

Any questions regarding any building concern can be directed to the **City of Nashua Office of Community Development, Department of Building Safety at 589-3080.**