

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Roof Collapse is of High Concern in Latah County

The amount of recent snowfall that is piling up could weaken roof structure and result in a roof collapse. Homeowners and business owners should be mindful of the risk of personal injury to themselves and occupants before removing snow from roofs. Professionals can be hired to reduce the risk to homeowners.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Be on the alert for large accumulations of snow build-up or snowdrifts on your roofs. If roof snow can be removed with the use of a snow rake (available at most hardware stores), do so. Use caution, as snow rakes conduct electricity if they come into contact with a power line.

WARNING SIGNS OF A POTENTIAL ROOF COLLAPSE

Prior to a roof collapse, buildings generally exhibit signs that the roof is in distress and action should be taken to mitigate a roof collapse. Watch for:

- Sagging roof steel - visually deformed
- Severe roof leaks
- Cracked or split wood members
- Bends or ripples in metal supports
- Cracks in walls or masonry
- Cracks in welds of steel construction
- Sheared off screws from steel frames
- Sprinkler heads pushed down below ceiling tiles
- Water in ponds where it never has not formed ponds before
- Doors that pop open
- Doors or windows that are difficult to open
- Bowed utility pipes or conduit attached at ceiling
- Creaking, cracking or popping sounds

TIPS FOR SNOW REMOVAL FROM ROOFS

- Try to avoid working from ladders, as ladder and boots can accumulate ice and snow.
- Flat roofs may be cleared, but only if the roof is safe to stand upon. Be careful when on a roof to avoid falling.
- Flat roof drainage systems should be kept clear to prevent roof ponding in the event of rainfall or melting.
- Large icicles can form on roof overhangs, but do not necessarily mean ice damming is occurring. Icicles overhanging doorways and walkways can be dangerous and should be carefully removed.
- All of the mentioned actions should only be performed by able-bodied adults, as the snow is heavy, and roofs and other surfaces may be slippery. Protective headgear and eye protection is recommended.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT AN IMMINENT ROOF COLLAPSE

- Evacuate the Building
- Consult with the local authorities

Please contact Eric Pah at the Latah County Building Department if you have any questions, (208) 883-7220

This is a public service announcement only