

# >> TOOLBOX TALK - Snow Removal from Structures

Removing snow and ice from rooftops, decks, scaffolding, etc. can pose serious hazards, especially if using ladders, snow blowers and other equipment. In addition to being slippery, roofs or other surfaces under construction could collapse under the weight of snow, ice, workers and equipment.

## STEPS TO SAFETY

- Use snow removal methods that do not involve going on roofs or upper floors (if possible) such as using long-handled snow rakes, however, avoid using snow rakes or shovels while on a ladder.
- Before clearing elevated surfaces, check the maximum load limits of the roof, deck, scaffolding or floor and consider load limits along with estimated weight from snow, ice, workers, equipment, etc..
- Using powered equipment, such as snow blowers, to remove snow from roofs can be dangerous:
  - Be extra cautious if raising such equipment to the roof using aerial lifts in slick conditions.
  - Do not use powered equipment near the edge of any roof.
  - Operate snow removal equipment at reduced speeds.
  - Keep hands out of the collection or discharge openings on equipment such as snow blowers.
- Ensure appropriate fall protection is used as per occupational health & safety regulations.
- Use proper shoveling techniques to reduce the likelihood of musculoskeletal injuries.
- Snow can hide many hazards, including tools, cords, holes, rebar, skylights etc. Remove or flag these hazards when significant snowfall is forecasted. Inspect the work area for any hazards and use caution when walking on snow covered surfaces.

## OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

There is also a danger of shock or electrocution from contact with power lines or snow covered, damaged extension cords. Always maintain a distance of at least 18 feet from any power line, as required by legislation, and treat power lines and wires as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated.

**For additional information, refer to the following Occupational Health and Safety Regulations:**

- Section 14(1) - General Duty of Employers
- Section 50 - 54 Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention
- Section 140 - 142 - Fall Protection Systems & General Requirements
- Section 498 - Minimum Clearance, High Voltage Equipment and Conductors

**Discuss other safety issues specific to your site and record them here:**

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**Complete and attach Toolbox Talk Meeting Form and process as per company policy.**



# TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ No. in Crew: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Last Meeting:

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	Names of Attendees (Signature Required)
<b>Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):</b>	
<b>Suggestions Offered:</b>	
<b>Action(s) to be Taken:</b>	
<b>Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:</b>	

Supervisor's Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_