



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Multiple storms over the past week caused several inches of snow to quickly pile-up across our region and for that reason Clinton County Sheriff David Favro is warning folks about the potential dangers of falling ice and snow.

Fluctuating temperatures over the last few days caused melting snow and ice to fall from roof-tops, including a large chunk of ice weighing about 250 pounds that fell on a 5-year-old boy outside his Keeseville house on Monday.

Sheriff Favro recommends clearing snow and ice from your roof:

Prevent Ice Damns

1. Rake the snow from the first few feet of your roof. If your roof is very steep, this may be less of any issue. However, if rain is expected, rake the eaves regardless: the snow will soak up the rain like a sponge and become very heavy.

Estimate Weight of Snow

2. Estimate the weight of your roof's snow by considering the fact that saturated snow (snow that can easily be made into a snowball, for example) weighs about 20 pounds per cubic foot. Or check your roof's snow load more accurately by weighing a one-foot by one-foot square of snow: if it weighs close to 40 pounds, including the ice build up, consider removing it.

Use a Shovel

3. Though potentially dangerous, you can shovel snow off your roof; however, you risk falling, sliding or over-exerting yourself. Ask someone to help you or tie yourself to a stable part of your roof (like a chimney) to ensure you won't fall off.

Use a Roof Rake

4. The advantage of using a roof rake is that you stay on the ground while pulling the snow from your roof's eaves. The disadvantage is that you won't be able to remove all the snow. Also, you may pull the snow down on top of yourself.

Hire Someone

5. Avoid the hassle and dangers of roof snow removal. Hire a professional to remove the snow from your roof when the time comes

In addition, chunks of ice or snow sliding off rooftops has the potential to damage gas meters or service connections to homes and businesses, causing a risk of gas leaks.

Another possible danger, if vents are blocked by ice and snow, deadly carbon monoxide (CO) can back up into homes or businesses resulting in carbon monoxide poisoning. It is important to check home CO detectors to ensure they are working properly. Anyone who suspects there may be carbon monoxide in their home or workplace is instructed to go outside immediately and breathe deeply. For severe symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, call 911 right away.

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