



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS

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Concern of Snow and Ice Accumulation on Roofs

How to prevent roof collapse by heavy snow loads

Driveways and walkways are usually what we think of when clearing snow. Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS also wants to remind you it is important to think about the snow load on your roofs. This can be very challenging and dangerous you may need to contact an experienced person to do this.

Knowing what type of roof you have may also help you evaluate the urgency, sloped roof or a flat roof. Flat and low sloped roofs become more of a concern due to the amount of snow load.

For a sloped roof, a roof rake will help you remove the snow from the edges where ice can build and cause damage to the roof and gutters.

For flat roofs it would be wise to closely monitor your roof and if in doubt, shovel the roof off.

For Tips and Warnings

- Use extreme caution when standing or climbing onto snowy or icy rooftops. Be sure to clear an area below for snow removal. It is **not** recommended to climb on sloped roofs.
- Purchase an extendable roof rake to achieve the greatest reach for sloped roofs from ground level.
- Be aware that snow can be very heavy.
- Remove the snow over several days if needed. Remember not to overexert yourself.
- If on a flat roof a small amount of snow on the shovel at a time to maintain your balance.
- Have someone with you to ensure your safety.