

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL INSPECTIONS

TOWN OF HANOVER

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BUILDING: (781) 826-5950
HEALTH: (781) 826-5289

MEMORANDUM

TO: **All Residents and Business Owners**

FROM: **Anthony Marino, Assistant Town Manager/Building Commissioner**

RE: **Threat of Roof Collapse**

DATE: **February 18, 2015**

As we dig out from yet another snow storm, we need to be aware of the stress and weight that all of this snow can add to our roofs. Obviously, flat roofs are the most susceptible if they are not draining properly, but roofs with a low pitch can also have issues as well with ice dams and stress on the roof due to the weight of the snow.

To minimize the risk of over-stressing a building roof due to accumulated or drifting snow, please consider the following:

- Be on the alert for large accumulating snow build-up or snowdrifts on your roofs.
- If snow can be removed, safely from the ground, with the use of a snow rake, please do so. Be careful though, as metal snow rakes conduct electricity if they come into contact with a power line.
- Try to avoid working from ladders, as ladder rungs tend to ice up. Snow and ice collect on boot soles, and metal ladders.
- Flat roof drainage systems should be kept clear to minimize the risk of excess roof ponding in the event of heavy rainfall or melting.
- Flat roofs can be shoveled clear, but only if it is determined that the roof is safe to stand upon. Exercise care when on the roof to avoid potentially dangerous falls.
- In many cases, roof ice dams can form causing water build-up, leading to interior damage. They can be very difficult to remove and free up the ice to allow the water to drain. Please contact a roofing or construction company for assistance; we have listed a few companies that may be available at the end of this memo.
- All of the suggested 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.

Please be safe while we deal with these historic snow fall amounts. If you have any questions please call the Building Office at (781) 826-5000 x1009. Listed below are a few companies that may be able to assist you with snow removal on your roof:

Rebuildex – Chris Lyons - 508-254-1000
Associate Roofing – 781-826-1533
Cycle Roofing & Carpentry – 781-254-5504
F Falcone Roofing – Fred Falcone – 781-293-3126
Walker Exteriors – Chris Walker – 508-564-2067