



Lead, Serve, Support

# SAFETY MATTERS



## Look Up ALL Year Round For Hazards... Be Especially Cautious NOW For Hazards OVERHEAD!

Each year workers are seriously injured and killed when snow and icicles fall from rooftops, trees, or while removing snow or ice from elevated surfaces such as rooftops, canopies, decks, etc.

### Tips to Prevent Injuries Caused By Overhead Winter Hazards

- \* Look out for and stay clear of overhead hazards while walking outdoors.
- \* Consider barricading areas below potential overhead hazards until they can be safely removed to keep people back at least 10 feet from the point where snow/ice is expected to fall.
- \* Plan ahead...
  - ✓ Mark hazards on roofs which could be covered or hidden by snow **BEFORE** snow starts to accumulate, i.e., skylights, roof drains, vents, etc.
  - ✓ Train workers to use equipment involved in snow/ice removal operations, i.e., ladders, aerial lifts, snow blowers, etc.
- \* Monitor snow loads on roofs and other structures; consult with a structural engineer if needed.
- \* Use snow removal methods which do **NOT** require workers to go out onto roofs whenever possible, i.e., using snow rakes or drag lines to remove snow from ground level.
- \* Wear eye, head, and hand protection, especially when removing ice from overhead.
- \* Use a broom to carefully remove icicles hanging over walkways/doorways; ice can fall down the handle.
- \* Never use metal tools – they can damage roofs and conduct electricity a power line is contacted.
- \* If workers have to walk on snow covered roofs or other structures:
  - ✓ Evaluate the **total load exerted on the roof/structure BEFORE** starting. Don't forget to take into account the weight of the worker(s), snow, AND equipment being used.
  - ✓ Use fall protection equipment in any areas **NOT** adequately guarded by a guardrail system or cover, i.e., full-body harness AND a lanyard attached to a secure anchorage point.
  - ✓ Follow safe ladder practices, i.e., proper positioning of the ladder, check the rungs for ice, clear snow from boots **BEFORE** stepping onto the ladder, maintain 3 points of contact with the ladder at all times (2 feet and 1 hand or 1 foot and 2 hands), never carry tools or equipment in your hands while climbing up or down, don't attempt to rake or shovel snow while standing on a ladder, never lean or reach beyond either side rail, etc.
  - ✓ Watch for snow movement above you - it could slide, knocking you off the ladder.



### For more information:

- ❖ On fall protection, aerial lifts, or ladder safety, sign into **safesCHOOLS**; or
- ❖ See OSHA Publication 3515, "Hazard Alert: Falls and Other Hazards to Workers Removing Snow from Rooftops and Other Elevated Surfaces" available at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) (click here).

## Remember To Stay Alert So You Don't Get Hurt!