

If there's snow on the ground, there may be risk overhead.



Protect against the risks of excessive snow build-up with a few simple tips from CNA.

Each winter, owners of commercial, industrial and residential property across the U.S. face damage from excessive snow build-up on their roofs. With just one cubic foot of snow weighing up to 30 pounds, snow accumulation can quickly reach critical limits resulting in a partial or complete structural collapse. Snow loads can also cause deflection in support members sufficient enough to damage electrical conduits, natural or propane gas lines, water or fluid piping, and other building appurtenances.

As an NRCA partner for more than 40 years, CNA understands the value of providing roofing contractors with smart, effective strategies to help mitigate snow-related risk. We hope you'll find this tip sheet to be a handy resource and a helpful tool to ensure your roofers are operating in a safer environment.

Identify your winter hazards.

During and after periods of snowfall, the following features can make buildings particularly susceptible to risk. Do your customers' properties contain any of these hazards?

- Skylights
- Tripping hazards including vent stacks, conduits, drains and piping
- Inoperable roof hatches
- Vulnerable structural supports — particularly as snow is removed or relocated
- Unstable ladder access or insufficient ladder tie-off points
- Lack of anchor points or inability to anchor without roof damage
- Snow-blocked heaters or rooftop HVAC units
- Public access to low-slope structures or surrounding property during periods of snow removal
- Employee and public access to structures critically loaded by snow build-up
- Metal shovels and equipment parts that may damage roofing materials
- Untrained personnel attempting to clear snow build-up



Take action to keep risks under control.

Contractors trained in roof hazards, fall protection and operation of snow remediation equipment are a valuable asset to every roofing business. Follow these simple tips to help reduce your company's risk exposure and help insure your roofers are better prepared.

- Flag hazardous vents or lines prior to snow season, or take roof photos to locate obstructions.
- Determine skylight locations from inside of structures.
- Dress properly in layers with warm coats, shirts and pants along with good gloves and a hat (sun protection may be needed on many days).
- Consider plastic tools to help reduce the risk of damage to roofing materials.
- When working from the ground, use an extension snow rake to remove snow from eaves, 3-4 feet up from the fascia.
- Clear gutters to facilitate water runoff and prevent dams.
- When working from a ladder, industrial or agricultural steamers may be effective for removing ice dams without damaging roofing materials.
- Incorporate permanent, weather-resistant fall protection anchors into structures susceptible to critical snow build-up, and make sure they are engineered to allow easy lifeline connection under hazardous weather conditions.
- Improvised temporary anchor points may provide protection if permanent anchors are not available or if "first-man-up" hazards cannot be eliminated.
- Chicken ladders (crawling boards) may be useful as work platforms if they can be secured over the ridge.
- Temporary canopies over entrances and exits may be needed or some access points may need to be closed if they are unsafe because of snow removal operations or if dangers from snow slides exist.

When it comes to preparing roofers for winter, and protecting them throughout the year ... **we can show you more.**[®]

As your policy renewal date approaches, contact your local independent agent. For more risk control tips and strategies from CNA, visit the CNA Risk Control Resource Center today at www.cna.com/riskcontrol.

