

EMPLOYEE HANDOUT

Clearing Snow from Roofs

Snow on roofs can be very dangerous and may sometimes require manual removal. Flat roofed buildings and lift terminals can become overloaded with snow, which can lead to collapse. Snow sliding off sloped roofs creates a serious hazard for pedestrians and vehicles.

While often necessary, removing snow from a roof can pose a number of hazards and being aware of these hazards is an important step in preventing injuries.

Safety Tips

Ensure you are Fit for Duty. Maintain your **health and wellness** at all times. Come to work **well rested, hydrated** and **fed**. Staying physically **fit for the job, warming up** your muscles prior to work, and taking a **short break** when you become fatigued will go a long way towards preventing strains.

Dress in appropriate layers for the temperatures and conditions. Take breaks and stay **hydrated**. Wear gloves and warm boots with slip resistant soles and cover your head.

Assess the scene prior to beginning the task. Look for hazards within your work environment, e.g. snow overhangs, members of the public, buried objects, icicles, etc.

Establish a **perimeter** on the ground, using fencing. Use this area for depositing the snow.

Ensure a good line of **communication** is maintained at all times when working in a team.

Use **proper shoveling techniques** when clearing the snow. Push small amounts towards the edge to maintain control. Use a long-handled snow rake, if possible.

Consider whether snow removal from the ground is an option. **Avoid getting on a roof** or working from height if a pull shovel can be used.

Use **safe ladder climbing** techniques when accessing the roof.

Do not stand on the edge of the roof while pulling snow towards you.

Be aware of roof vents, sky lights and other roof **structures** that may be buried under the snow.

If the snow removal is occurring from the ground, be sure to wear **proper personal protective equipment** (PPE), eye protection, and a hard hat. Avoid standing directly under the snow you are clearing.

While working at heights of 3m (10 ft) or more, **fall restraint or fall arrest equipment** must be used. Before entering an area where a risk of falling exists, you must receive training/instruction on the fall protection system for the area and the procedures to be followed.

Follow the fall protection regulations in your jurisdiction.

Additional Resources

- Your ski area policy and procedures.
- Ski Area Safety Talk: Using a Snow Shovel
- OHS Regulations/Codes on Fall Protection, for your province.
- [WorkSafeBC Fall Protection](#)
- [WorkSafeBC Ladder Safety Resources](#)
- More Ski Area Safety Resources: go2hr.ca/skisafety