

# cleaRing Snow from roofs

Instructor Guide

## Safety Talk Overview:

**What & Why?** Safety Talks are a method to refresh an employee’s knowledge and skills, maintain their interest in safety and illustrate the organization’s commitment to creating a healthy & safe work environment.

**Who & When?** Generally, these Safety Talk meetings are led by a supervisor, member of the JHSC, or Worker H&S Representative and should be mandatory for all crew members to attend. The content should be focused on a single topic. Safety Talks can be performed on a weekly basis or before the start of a new scope of work and should be about 15 minutes in duration.

go2HR developed this safety talk template for employers to customize and use for any topic in their organization. The Participant Handout should include information that you hope the worker will retain from the safety talk content and should be handed out during the safety talk for workers to reference later. Feel free to use it at your discretion.

**Clearing Snow from Roofs Overview**

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 Talk Outline (using the handout below):**

- Preventative Measures

- Discussion Questions

**Additional Resources:**

-[go2HR Ski Areas](https://www.go2hr.ca/health-safety/ski-areas)

-[WorkSafeBC Fall Protection](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/tools-machinery-equipment/fall-protection)

-[WorkSafeBC Ladders](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/tools-machinery-equipment/ladders)

## Topic Overview:

## 

## Safety Talk Facilitator Guidance

🞏 **Introduce** the topic and why it’s important

🞏 **Discuss** the associated hazards and likely incidents

🞏 **Tour** the work zone identifying hazardous areas

🞏 **Distribute** the Participant Handout

🞏 **Use** the info above to guide the discussion

🞏 **Document** the talk using the Safety Talk Record

🞏 **Explain** what controls are used to minimize the risks

🞏 **Remind** employees about applicable PPE usage

🞏 **Emphasize** the importance of safe work procedures

🞏 **Ask questions** to generate group discussion

🞏 **Answer any questions** or concerns they might have

🞏 **Set a good example** by working safely at all time

# clearing snow from roofs

Safety Talk Record

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Discussion Leader:** | **Date:** |
| **Department:** | Time: |

### Attendees (Please print your name and sign beside it. If you are a contractor, also include your company name):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Near miss/incidents and investigations reviewed: ☐ None this month

### Any questions or concerns from workers?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action needed:** | **Person responsible:** | **Due date:** | **Completed date:** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Supervisor/Manager print name & sign:** | **Date:** |

### Reviewed by:

# 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.

**Preventative Measures**

**Prioritize Health and Wellness**

-Come to work well rested, hydrated, and fed

-Maintain physical fitness for the job and warm up muscles before work

-Take short breaks when fatigued to prevent strains

**Adapt to Environmental Conditions**

-Dress in appropriate layers for temperatures and conditions

-Wear gloves, warm boots with slip-resistant soles, and cover your head

-Take breaks and stay hydrated to maintain comfort and safety

**Pre-task Assessment**

-Assess the scene for hazards such as snow overhangs, buried objects, and icicles

-Establish a perimeter using fencing for snow deposition

-Maintain clear communication within the team

**Safe Snow Removal Methods**

-Use proper shoveling techniques, pushing small amounts towards the edge to maintain control

-Consider ground-level snow removal instead of working at heights whenever possible

-Use safe ladder climbing techniques when accessing roofs

**Awareness of Roof Hazards**

-Avoid standing on the edge of the roof while pulling snow towards you

-Be mindful of roof vents, skylights, and other structures buried under snow

-Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when clearing snow from the ground

**Safety at Heights**

-Use fall restraint or fall arrest equipment when working at heights of 3m (10 ft) or more

-Receive training on the fall protection system and follow procedures before entering high-risk areas

-Adhere to fall protection regulations specified in your jurisdiction

**Discussion**

-Can you share any experiences or lessons learned regarding roof safety during snow removal tasks?

-What are some effective strategies to manage fatigue and prevent strains during a snow removal shift?

-What are some common hazards you encounter during snow removal, and how do you navigate them?

-How do you communicate and collaborate with your team during this task?

Participant Handout

### For more information on this topic or if you have questions, contact: