



## **WINTER SAFETY**

### **CLEARING YOUR ROOF**

As the snow and ice continues to build up across the State, there is a growing concern about both commercial and residential roof collapses.

Clearing a roof is a dangerous task. If unsure of safe snow and ice removal practices, building and homeowners should contact a qualified roofing contractor.

Here are safety tips to follow when clearing snow and ice from roofs:

1. When possible, use long-handled snow rakes or poles. Use caution as metal snow rakes conduct electricity if they come into contact with a power line.
2. Try to avoid working from ladders as ladder rungs tend to ice up. If you must use a ladder, make certain that the base is securely anchored. Ask a friend, neighbor or adult family member to hold the ladder while you climb.
3. Know where the snow is going to fall before clearing the area.
4. Make certain not to contact electrical wires.
5. Large icicles can form on roof overhangs but do not necessarily mean ice damming is occurring. Icicles overhanging doorways and walkways can be dangerous and should be removed carefully.
6. If possible, do not attempt to clear the roof alone.
7. If you are afraid of heights or think the job is too big for you, **HIRE HELP.**

Clearing roofs is a dangerous task. However, if you think safety, and work safely, you will get the job done