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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 22, 2020
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PRESS RELEASE

REMINDER: SAFELY REMOVE SNOW AND ICE FROM ROOFS

CONCORD, N.H. – State officials remind residents and business owners to consider removing snow and ice from roofs before the forecasted rain later this week. The combination of recent heavy snowfall followed by melting snow and the forecasted rain can cause additional weight and put stress on your building’s roof.

“A roof may collapse with little or no warning, and one common misconception is that only flat roofs are susceptible,” explained State Fire Marshal Paul Parisi. “Changing winter weather brings snow, rain, and freezing rain, so it is important to regularly assess the roof of your home or business. If you’re not sure of the weight capacity of your roof or if you think it may have been compromised, consult with a reputable builder and check with your local building or fire official.”

Home and business owners are also encouraged to keep all chimneys and vents clear to prevent carbon monoxide from backing up into the building.

“Clearing snow and ice from your roof is necessary to protect your home or business during winter weather,” said NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper. “Residents should make sure it is safe to remove the snow from roofs, especially pitched roofs, to prevent personal injury or damage to the structure.”

Fire Marshal Parisi and Director Harper offer these snow removal safety tips:

- Use a long-handled roof rake and stand on the ground to remove snow from the roof.
- If you must use a ladder, make sure the base is secure, and ask someone to hold the ladder while you climb.
- Do not clear snow during periods of strong winds.
- If you see an electrical wire that has fallen onto your roof, stay away and call 9-1-1.
- Keep roof drainage systems clear of snow to prevent the risk of roof ponding in the event of heavy snow melting.
- Don’t forget to help the elderly or those that cannot safely remove the snow and ice from their homes.

Learn more about fire and building safety at the Office of the State Fire Marshal's website at nh.gov/firesafety.

The core steps toward preparedness are:

1. Stay informed by signing up for NH Alerts.
2. Make an emergency kit.
3. Have a family emergency plan.
4. Get involved in your community.

Visit ReadyNH.gov to learn more preparedness tips to help you and your family stay safe.

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