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## **Warning to Residents, Businesses to clear snow from roofs.**

With the high amount of snow fall received in recent weeks the Milford Building Safety Department is reminding residents and businesses to clear snow from roofs. Building codes address the amount of snow a roof should be designed to handle, depending on snow fall averages. Most newer buildings are built to these codes, but older buildings, especially with flatter roofs, may have been built under different codes and therefore present a greater risk of roof collapse.

The amount of snow received so far this season combined with ice caused by several days of minimal thawing and refreezing is creating significant “snow loads” (weight) that may be beyond the design of many roofs. Although only a few inches of snow may be visible on the roof, there can be an equal amount of ice underneath that snow. The combined weight of ice and snow can be disastrous and any added rainfall that may occur rapidly increases this weight.

It is recommended property owners hire a fully insured roofing contractor to remove snow and ice from roofs and gutters. A number of roofing contractors can be found in the phone book.

Flat roof commercial or industrial properties should make certain roof drains and overflow drains are kept cleared or thawed if frozen.

Property owners are also reminded to check heating and dryer vents, especially after removing snow from roofs. They should be cleared of snow at all times to prevent possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

Any questions regarding any building concern can be directed to the Milford Office of Community Development, Building Safety Department at 249-0620.