

Fides Insurance Group / Office of Risk Management
RISK ALERT
No. 2022-01

RE: Winter Storm Warning

January 6, 2022

A Winter Storm Warning is in effect from **1:00 am Friday, January 7 through 4:00 pm Saturday, January 8**. Heavy snow is expected in eastern and southeastern Massachusetts, with the potential for **6-8 inches**, with up to 10 inches possible in southeast Massachusetts. Most of the snow from this fast-moving winter storm is expected to accumulate between 5:00 am and 10:00 am. Travel could be difficult, especially during the morning commute.

Precautions to Take Now

If not cleared off, snow accumulations will add weight and stress to structures and contribute to leaky roofs once the snow begins to thaw. In many cases, roof ice dams can form, causing water build-up leading to interior damage. To minimize the risk of over-stressing a building roof due to accumulated or drifting snow, please take into consideration the following tips:

- If roof snow can be removed from the ground with the use of a snow rake (available at most hardware stores), do so. Use caution, as metal snow rakes conduct electricity if they come into contact with a power line.
- Try to avoid working from ladders, as ladder rungs tend to ice up. Snow and ice collect on boot soles and metal ladders.
- Remove snow in layers uniformly across the roof to prevent unbalanced loads that might cause collapse. Avoid making snow piles on the roof during the removal process.
- 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 carefully removed.
- Use care with snow removal equipment (shovels, ice scrapers, snow blowers) to prevent roof cover damage. It is not necessary to clean completely down to the roof surface as long as melting snow and water can freely flow to the drains.
- Because snow is heavy and roofs and other surfaces may be slippery, all of the above-mentioned actions should only be performed by able-bodied adults. Protective headgear and eye protection is recommended.

Keep Informed

- All locations should have a battery-powered radio on hand. Please monitor weather reports.

Reporting a Claim

If you experience property damage or injury as a result of the storm, report the claim immediately. Contact Alicia Gray at 781-664-3990, Alicia_gray@rcab.org. For a list of service vendors, go to: <https://rcabrisk.org/vendors/>.