

## Preventing Falls during Snow Removal

Working on a roof with snow, ice, or wind carries a risk of a fall onto the roof, or a fall off the roof to the ground below or through a snow-covered skylight, all of which are often fatal. Therefore, take safety precautions prior to going onto a roof to remove snow:

- Using snow removal methods that do not involve you going on roofs, when and where possible.
- Evaluating loads exerted on roof or structure (e.g., **total weight of snow, you and equipment used**), compared to the load limit of the roofs.
  - Use fall protection equipment if all possible
  - Ensuring that you use ladders safely
  - Use a plastic shovel when pushing snow off of the roof (NOT SHOVELING IT OFF).
  - Scoop or push small amounts of snow at a time. Use a smaller shovel or take smaller scoops of snow if snow is wet and heavy
  - Avoid using a snow blower on a roof
  - Use extreme caution when working near power lines. Always treat power lines, wires and other conductors as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated.

### **Remove Snow without Going on the Roof**

Whenever possible, use methods to clear ice and snow without workers going on the roof. For example:

- Use ladders to apply de-icing materials.
- Use snow rakes or drag lines from the ground
- When using snow rakes, remove small amounts of snow at a time
- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from any power line
- When standing on the ground removing snow from the roof and bystanders can become trapped under snow falling from roof. Mark a safe work zone in the area where snow is to be removed.



Mason County Department of Emergency Management