

NTPC Health & Safety Alert

Falling Snow and Ice



Background

Melting snow on a building roof formed a large column of ice extending from the eaves to the ground. The top portion of the column unexpectedly detached and fell outward, striking a worker.

Practical Guidance

Falling snow and ice can pose a serious hazard, especially during freeze/thaw cycles. Meltwater can freeze on external surfaces such as roofs, eaves, gutters, drain spouts, walls, and door frames creating hazards for nearby workers.

- 1) **Hazard Identification:** It is essential to identify all potential falling snow and ice hazards in workplaces.
 - Look for falling snow and ice hazards when working in or around buildings and when conducting Tailboard Meetings
 - Consider the potential strike zone – ice on the side or roof of a building can fall outward (it doesn't always fall straight down)
 - Report overhead snow and ice hazards:
 - Use a *Concern Report* if the hazard is still present
 - Use an *Incident Report* if the ice/snow has fallen (i.e., Near Miss or Accident)
- 2) **Hazard Control:** Overhead snow and ice hazards must be dealt with before they result in an unsafe event. Appropriate controls include:
 - Engineering controls such as snow guards on roofs
 - Consistent monitoring of areas where snow and ice buildup occurs
 - Setting up control zones to prevent access to hazardous areas (e.g., barricades, tape, signs)
 - Removing potential falling snow and ice hazards, if it can be done safely



For more information contact your Health & Safety Department.