

# DANGEROUS ICE AND SNOW FROM ABOVE

Every winter we remind industry of the importance of watching for ice and snow, especially when it comes to walkways, parking lots and stairs to avoid the risk of slips and falls in icy or snowy conditions.

However, there are also risks from above and it is equally important to look up for ice and snow hazards.

- **WHERE ARE THE HAZARD AREAS OF ICE AND SNOW FROM ABOVE?**
- **WHEN DO I HAVE TO AVOID THE HAZARD AREAS?**
- **WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS FROM HAZARDOUS ICE AND SNOW FROM ABOVE?**



**BC Forest Safety**

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# DANGEROUS ICE AND SNOW FROM ABOVE



## WHERE ARE THE HAZARD AREAS OF ICE AND SNOW FROM ABOVE?

Failure to remove accumulated ice and snow from roofs, buildings and structures can result in a serious hazards. Ice and snow can build up overhead on different surfaces such as sloped roofs, eaves, door, window frames, drain spouts, or gutters on the outside of buildings. These areas should be regularly checked for overhead hazards to ensure safe access to buildings and work areas.

Access doorways, service bay entrances and work areas alongside the buildings are all areas to assess for overhead hazards before entering.

## WHEN DO I HAVE TO AVOID THE HAZARD AREAS?

Snow and ice hazards develop when temperatures fluctuate, or heat escapes and melts snow and water on surfaces. These hazards are more common in milder winter weather conditions when daytime temperatures are warm enough to melt the ice and snow during the day but then freeze overnight. Ice melting from overhead can also pool on the ground below and refreeze, creating a slipping hazard.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS FROM HAZARDOUS ICE AND SNOW FROM ABOVE?

Conduct regular worksite inspections first thing in the morning if temperatures are fluctuating between overnight freezing and daytime thawing. Identify hazardous snow and ice build up and remove or control the hazards. Implement seasonal controls and barriers to prevent workers from accessing areas where snow and ice is at risk to fall. If you see a hazardous area, inform your supervisor and safely block off the area until the hazard is removed.

### **REMEMBER!**

**It's always important to look up for ice and snow hazards.**



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