Hazard Alert



Overhead Hazard – Falling Ice & Snow

Failure to remove accumulated ice and snow from buildings and structures can result in a serious or fatal injury to a worker or passerby from falling ice or snow.

Ice and snow can build up overhead on different surfaces such as eaves, door and window frames, drain spouts, or gutters on the outside of buildings or structures. This can occur when temperatures fluctuate or heat escapes and melts snow and the water attaches on other surfaces.

This hazard is more common in milder winter weather conditions, when the sun warms the area enough to melt the ice during the day but gives way to freezing temperatures at night. Dripping water from overhead melting ice may also pool on the ground below and refreeze, creating a slipping hazard.

Be aware of overhead ice and snow build up and take action to safely remove it before it becomes dangerous.

- Conduct regular work site inspections to identify and correct hazards.
- Conduct risk and hazard assessments; identify and implement controls; and follow safe work procedures and practices.
- Report unsafe conditions at work sites.

What the Legislation Says:

The Northwest Territories and Nunavut Occupational Health and Safety Regulations,

Section 22.(2) state:

An employer shall, as soon as is reasonably possible, correct an unsafe condition found in a plant and take reasonable steps, until the unsafe condition is corrected, to protect the health an safe of workers who could be endangered.

The WSCC is committed to safety. For more information on workplace health and safety, call us toll-free or visit our website.

