



Rooftop Snow Removal

During severe winter weather many Harvard rooftops require snow removal to access rooftop assets such as emergency generators, drains, or faulty rooftop equipment. In most severe conditions, snow load conditions may also prove to be a safety concern.

This guidance document lists safety parameters that should be followed.

Snow Clearance for Equipment Access

All Harvard and contractor personnel removing snow from doorways, shoveling paths to equipment and drains or accessing any equipment for maintenance or repairs must follow a Walking and Working (Fall Protection) program.

In other words, when there are no railings or correct height parapets, no one should be on a roof during winter weather without some means of fall protection.

Each roof should have a rooftop fall protection survey to ensure that passive (railings or correct height parapets) or active (harness, lanyard, guidelines, and certified anchor points) have been installed. EH&S is available to conduct surveys and suggest certified vendors.

Some rooftop egress doors have been “snowed in” last winter. Doors that swing in and out can solve this problem. Changing the door to just open inward may pose a regulatory issue if the door is considered emergency egress. Please contact the EH&S office for guidance.

The [Harvard Service Contract Safety Guide](#) details fall protection requirements:

“The contractor is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining a Walking and Working (Fall Protection) Program in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations as it



applies to the work contract. The contractor must have a copy of the program at the request of the contract coordinator or EH&S. Each contractor shall provide fall protection equipment for all necessary personnel...”

Snow Load Guidance

[Federal Emergency Management Agency Snow Safety Load Guidance](#) details warning signs of overstressed conditions during a snow event; key safety issues and risks; safety measures for snow removal; and methods of snow removal.

If any of the warning signs are observed, the building should be promptly evacuated, EH&S should be notified, and a local building authority and/or a qualified design professional should be contacted to perform a detailed structural inspection.

Any concerns about snow loading for specific buildings or problem areas should be addressed before the next winter season.