

Weathering the Northeast Winter: Featuring the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

# Asking Questions

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Before we begin our meeting, please keep in mind that numerous state and Federal laws absolutely prohibit the exchange of information among competitors regarding price, refusals to deal, or agreements to proceed in certain anticompetitive respects, and that no such exchange of this information is either sanctioned by NAMIC or will be permitted during our meeting. This is a very serious matter and your cooperation will be appreciated.

Although The McCarren-Ferguson Act has given a limited exemption to the insurance industry from certain otherwise prohibited activities, board members should realize that the exemption provided companies has definite limits and that NAMIC itself, as a trade association, has no such exemption. Activities, both in and out of the meeting room, are exempt only if they: a) involve the business of insurance; b) are regulated by state law; and c) do not constitute an agreement to boycott, coerce and/or intimidate or an act to further any of the three. Please note that legislative activities are protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and are generally not subject to anti-trust laws.

Conviction upon violation of the anti-trust laws (Sherman Act, Clayton Act, FTC Act and Robinson-Patman Act) will result in mandatory jail sentences, fines or both, even for first offenders who are otherwise leaders in their communities. Beside discussions involving any possible insurance market boycott, coercion and/or intimidation, which are never protected under any circumstances, here are some practices which you should not initiate nor participate in as they may expose you, your company, and NAMIC to possible anti-trust investigation and/or prosecution by the FTC or Justice Department. Discussing any of the following:

Price, profits, commission, reinsurance or any other cost components and elements.

Rates or the stabilizing of rates or other terms or conditions of any products to be offered for sale.

■ Underwriting criteria with an eye toward standardizing.

■ A market division plan without a state law covering the plan, including discussions of type or products to be offered, customers to whom insurance products may be sold or the territories in which they may be sold.

Matters that would adversely affect availability of insurance or services to the public.

Future rate plans including actuarial projections.

#### "Fair" profit levels.

Keeping access to NAMIC membership unduly restrictive or denying unique services of NAMIC to nonmembers.

Developing "standards" for company operations.

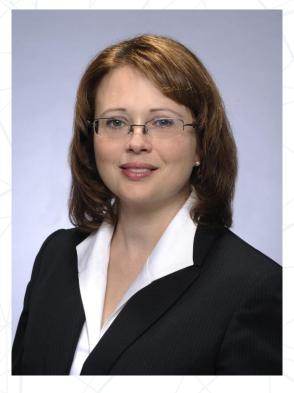
■ Trading information on bidding for office equipment and supplies or agreeing to collectively refrain from purchasing any equipment, services or supplies from any supplier.

Suggesting a certain credit policy.

■ Referring to any company or agency by specific name in any example you may give as an illustration during our discussions.

If any of the above occurs, you should object, have your objection noted in the minutes of any meeting and, if the discussion or practice continues, leave the room. Further, the prohibitions apply to discussions in an informal or social setting, not just regularly scheduled meetings.

If you see any prohibited practices occurring in any NAMIC meeting or social event, please mention your concern to an officer of the Association.



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## **IBHS** Mission

To conduct objective, scientific research to identify and promote effective actions that strengthen homes, businesses and communities against natural disasters and other causes of loss.

# **Objective and Scope**

- Address specific winter weather risks
- Discuss preventative measures to take before the winter season
- Describe actions to take during and after winter-related events



# Winter Weather Risks

- Snow loads and roof collapse
- Ice dams
- Frozen pipes



# **Roof Collapse**

- Determine how much load the roof can support
- Look for signs of roof structure damage





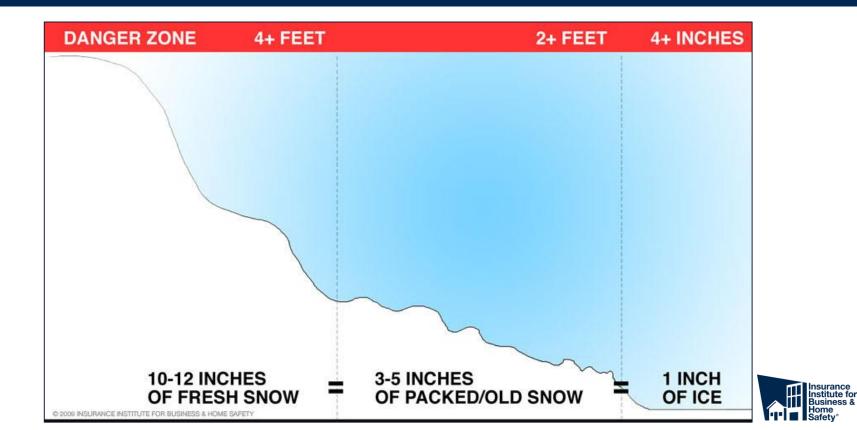
# **Snow Accumulation**

- Estimate weight of snow on roof
- Act quickly to remove snow
  - Use a roof snow rake
  - Hire a professional



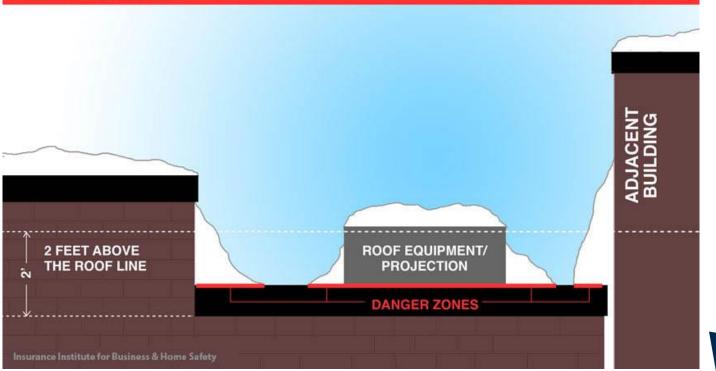


## Winter Weather: Roof Collapse



#### Winter Weather: Roof Collapse

#### DRIFT = DANGER



Insurance Institute for

# **Roof Collapse: Emerging Issues**

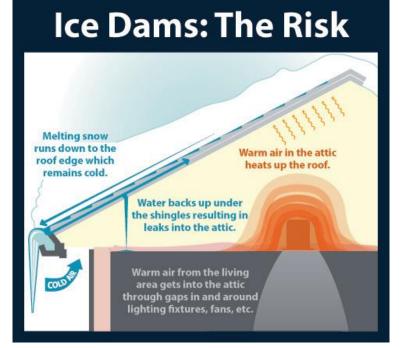
# Solar panels and snow accumulation



## What is an Ice Dam?



## Ice Dams: Steep-Sloped Roofs

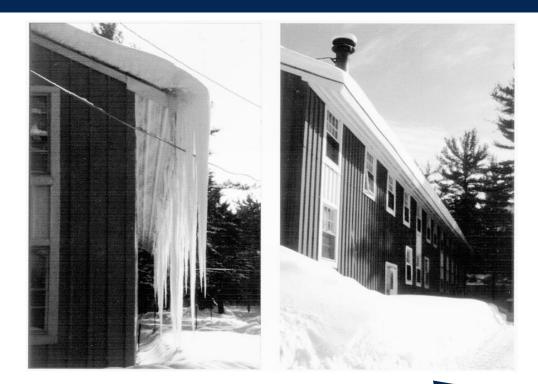


#### **Preventing Damage** VENTILATE INSULATE SEAL Make sure vents Seal 24 in, from the are open and exterior wall between lear of snow to roof covering and the attic to prevent leakage. to escape. Add insulation in the attic, particularly around lights, fans and other openings between the living area and the attic. © Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety



# **Preventing Ice Dams**

- Increase ceiling insulation
- Seal ceiling penetrations
- Increase attic ventilation
- Get the snow off the roof!





# **Removing Ice Dams: Minimizing Damage**

- Apply waterproof membrane on roof deck at roof edge (ice and water barrier)
- Remove snow
- Make vertical channels through the ice dam to allow water to drain off
- Have a professional remove
   the ice dam



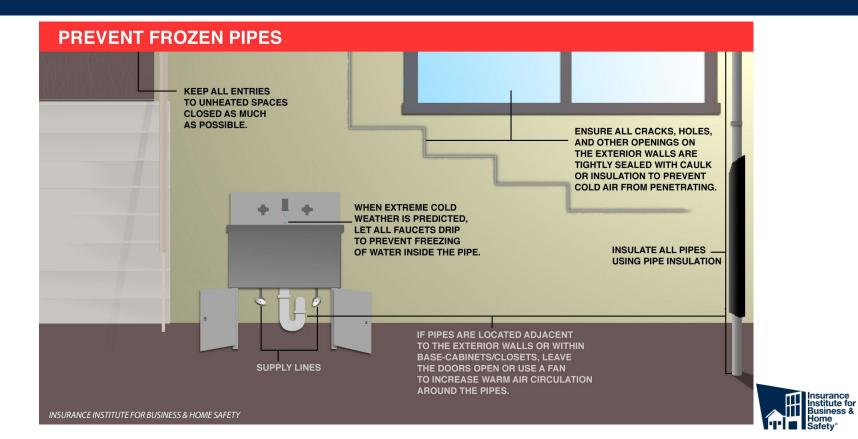


# Ice Dams: Low-Sloped Roof

- Ice forms a ring around drains that keep water from draining
- Ice build-up increases the roof load which can lead to collapse and leaks
- Removing snow will prevent ice dam formation



#### **Prevent Frozen Pipes**



# **Prevent Frozen Pipes**

- Back up power for commercial building heat
- Monitor interior temperature
- Insulate/seal all penetrations
  - Walls
  - Doors/Windows





## **Prevent Frozen Pipes: Water**

- Place a monitored automatic excess flow switch on main incoming domestic water line
- Provide early detection of broken pipe or valve when a business is closed



# **Prevent Frozen Pipes: Sprinkler Systems**

- Monitor by a central station = early detection of pipe failure
- Use insulation and/or heat trace tape for wet sprinkler system piping
  - Main lines from underground passing through a wall and sprinkler branch lines
- Install UL-approved gas or electric unit heaters in unheated sprinkler control valve/fire pump rooms



# Why Plan?

- All businesses and homes are at risk
- Plans reduce losses and downtime
- Recovery is more efficient





# **Pre-Planning**

- Secure contractors for snow removal/delivery of fuel
- Install backup power
- Develop emergency preparedness & response plan
- Develop business continuity plan





# **Hiring a Contractor**

- Look for established, licensed and bonded professional
- Check references
- Verify certificates of insurance



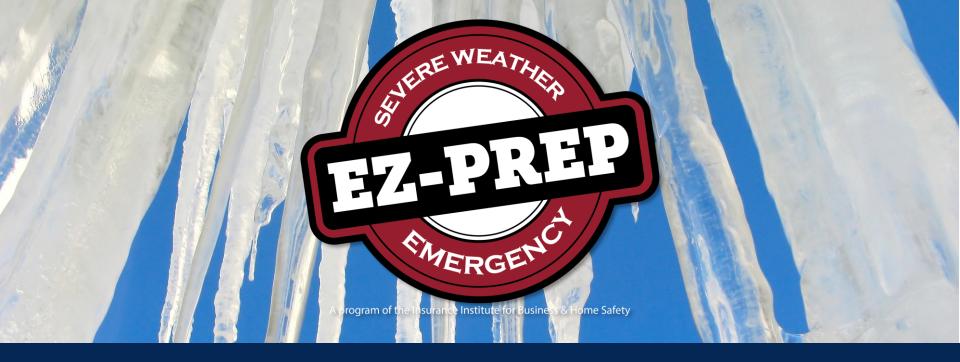


# Alternative Power: Permanent or Portable Generators

- Extended power outages often cause significant losses
- Generators can reduce
   recovery time
- Always use a generator outside





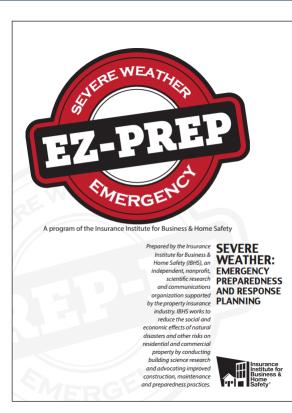


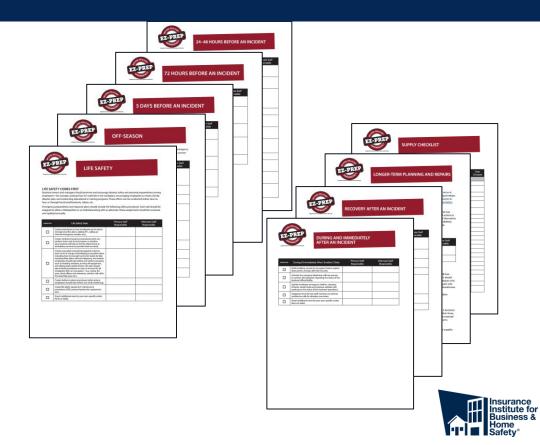
#### **Severe Weather:** Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning

DisasterSafety.org/Open-for-Business





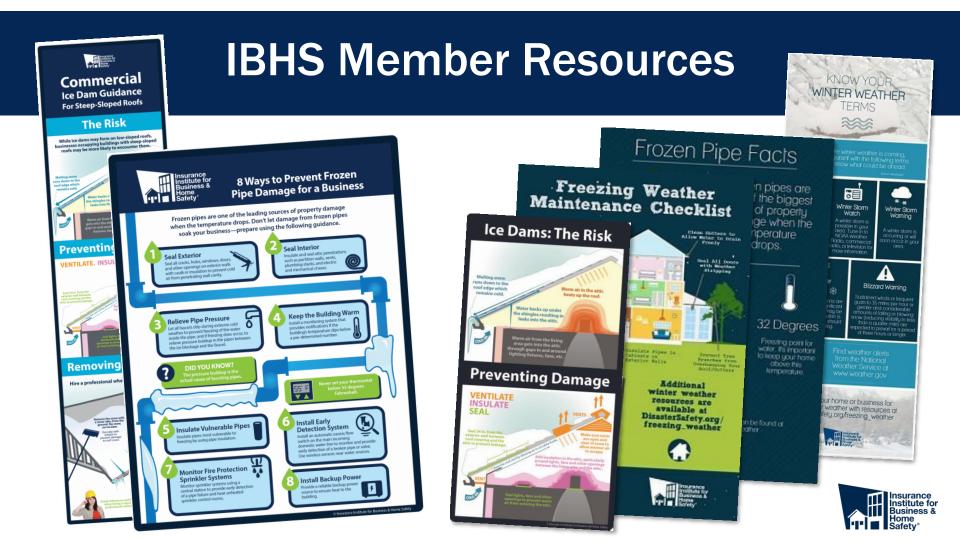




#### **Business Continuity Plan**







#### **Contact IBHS**

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# Please visit DisasterSafety.org





