



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hailey Vicinity Snow and Water Levels Public Service Announcement

(Hailey, Idaho) – As of Friday, March 1st the current roof snow load is estimated to be 76.44 lbs. per sq. ft. Per the NRCS, the official snow measurement from the Ketchum Ranger Station is 64 lbs. per sq. ft. The Ketchum Ranger Station is only measured once a month.

The City of Hailey excerpts the Snow Water Equivalent data from nrcs.usda.gov for estimated Roof Snow Load per Square Foot. The calculations are based off of the Chocolate Gulch Ranger Station, as there are no stations in Hailey.

Today's buildings in Hailey are constructed to withstand a minimum of 100 lb. per sq. ft. snow load. Older structures (pre-1977) could have a roof system design where snow loads range from 40 lbs. to 80 lbs. depending on their age and quality of construction. Older flat roofed structures are at greater risk and it is strongly advised that those roofs be shoveled when loads reach 60 lbs. per sq. ft.

Hailey Building Official Jim Lynch states, *"I am fairly concerned about exhaust and intake stacks for chimneys, fireplaces, water heaters and gas furnaces," Lynch said. "If these are blocked, they can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning."*

The weight of one (1") inch of snow on your roof can vary from 1 lbs. per sq. ft. to 5 lbs. per sq. ft. depending on how wet the snow is. Ice build-up can weigh even more! Per FEMA, one (1') foot of ice weighs approximately 57 lbs. per sq. ft.

A few warning signs:

- Listen for cracking, creaking or popping sounds
- Check for bowing trusses or joists
- Check for doors and or windows that will not open
- Check for cracked or split structural members

A few things to be aware of:

- Ice Dams
- Roof Obstructions
- Snow drifts on the roof
- Shape and slope of the roof
- Thermal conditions of the building
- Additional snow build-up in roof pitch valleys

The City of Hailey does not keep building plans for pre-1977 residences. If you do not know your roof's snow load capacity, please contact an engineer to assist in determining your individual roof's capacity. If you plan on shoveling your roof, please be aware of gas meters and vents that could be impacted by falling snow causing potential gas leaks. If you smell gas, call 911.

For more information, call the Community Development Department at 208-788-9815 x 27.

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