

## **TOOLBOX TALK #50**

### **SNOW REMOVAL FROM ROOFS**

Under OSHA's General Duty Clause, contractors and employers have a duty to protect workers from recognized hazards in the workplace, including hazards associated with snow removal from roofs. This Toolbox Talk describes the steps you can take to prevent injuries and deaths from these hazards.



#### **Plan Ahead for Safe Removal from Roofs**

Before snow starts to accumulate, think about what will be needed to safely remove snow from roofs or other elevated work surfaces:

- Can snow be removed without workers going onto the roof?
- Are there any hazards on the roof that might be hidden by the snow and need to be marked so that workers can see them (skylights, roof drains, vents, etc.)?
- How should the snow be removed, based on the building's layout, to prevent unbalanced loading?
- What are the maximum load limits of the roof and how do they compare with the estimated total weight of snow, snow removal equipment, and workers on the roof?
- What tools, equipment, protective devices, clothing and footwear will workers need?
- What type of fall protection will be used to protect workers on roofs and other elevated surfaces?
- What training will workers need to work safely?
- How will mechanized snow removal equipment be safely elevated onto the roof?
- How will you protect people on the ground from snow and ice falling off the roof during removal operations?