



# WINTER PREPAREDNESS & INFORMATION

## BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

During winter storms, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Winter storms can bring cold temperatures, power failures, loss of communication services and can leave communities without utilities or other services for long periods.

**Winter safety concerns caused by snow, ice and other conditions arise around the home's interior and exterior, requiring extra work on the part of homeowners to ensure no problems show up. Some items to consider:**

### **Snow loads**

- Know the limits of your roof and density of the snow, and use a snow rake to remove as much as can be reached from the ground.
- Hire a contractor to remove snow.



### **Ice dams**

- Keep ice from building up on eaves & gutters by removing or using snow melt.

### **Gas meters**

- Protect from falling ice
- Keep clear of snow to allow them to breathe so they don't leak.



### **Roof vents**

- Do not use gas appliances if the vent is covered.

### **Heat pumps**

- Keep clear of snow and ice.

### **Shut off valves**

- Water
  - Know the location and keep clear of snow and ice
  - Protect from freezing
- Gas
  - Know the location and keep clear of snow and ice



### **Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact the Building Safety Division at [building@bendoregon.gov](mailto:building@bendoregon.gov) or 541-388-5580 extension 2. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.