

BUREAU OF BUILDING INSPECTION ICICLE SAFETY TIPS:

- Icicles are dangerous and can even be fatal.
- You should not stand under areas with icicles above. The weight of icicles can cause gutters, awnings, and ornamental features to collapse and fall from the building.
- It is recommended to have large icicles removed by a contractor who will have the proper equipment to deal with the conditions.
- Never climb onto a snow or ice covered roof. Never place a ladder directly against a gutter covered with ice or icicles.
- The pressure of the ladder against the gutter may cause the ice or icicles to dislodge, falling on the person or property below.

If icicles are to be removed by the property owner, the following steps should be taken:

- Always be sure to be standing on a stable and suitable surface.
- Be sure to check the area under the icicles to be certain that people, pets and personal property will not be hurt or damaged by the falling ice.
- Use a wooden pole which is long enough so that icicles may be knocked down without causing personal injury from standing beneath the icicles, or over extending your reach.
- Tap the icicles. Do not hit them with extensive force. Hitting the icicle too hard may cause building damage to the area where the icicle has formed. If the icicle does not break loose, contact a professional contractor to perform the removal work.
- Never work around electrical or utility lines. Keep a safe distance from the utility lines so that the pole used to dislodge the ice and icicles will not come into contact with the wires.
- Once the icicles have been safely removed, shovel the ice away from any walking surfaces.

To prevent future formation of ice, the following steps may be taken:

- Safely remove as much snow from the roof surface as possible. Once again, this should be performed while standing securely on the ground away from the gutter line of the structure.
- Properly install attic insulation to prevent heat from escaping through the roof allowing the snow to melt during below freezing temperatures.
- Have heating cables professionally installed along the gutter and eave portion of the roof to prevent the formation of ice, ice dams and icicles.