

CITY OF BEND FIRE RESCUE
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

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TITLE: Snow Load Emergencies

NUMBER: S-3

A. SIZE-UP/ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS

- 1) Determine life hazard and potential for collapse before entering building.
- 2) Contact building owner or manager on scene.
- 3) Interview building owner/manager/occupants for information on visible signs of structural weakness inside building.
- 4) Make an exterior inspection for cracks, deformities, bulging walls, sounds or other signs of weight stress.
- 5) Any collapse or partial collapse refer to SOG R-2 (Building Collapse)

B. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHECKLIST

- 1) If any of the above signs are present, a snow load emergency may exist. DO NOT ENTER BUILDING!
- 2) Evacuate building immediately and account for occupants. Request BPD/DCSO assistance.
- 3) Establish perimeter safe zone and control entry to area around building.
- 4) Request Building Inspector from the City or County Building Departments through Dispatch to assist in determination of building safety.

C. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- 1) If it is determined that the building is unsafe for occupancy:
 - Have dispatch contact the Building Official from the City or County Building Departments and advise of the situation. He/she has the authority to prohibit owner from entry to unsafe building.
- 2) Snow Removal
 - DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANY SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS.
 - Advise building owner to contact a snow removal contractor or contractor for shoring up building.
- 3) Fire/Haz-Mat
 - Determine fire or hazardous materials potential if collapse occurs.
- 4) Utilities
 - Notify Utility companies for shutoff if necessary.