

Dealing with Heavy Winter Snows

The Steuben County Office of Emergency Services would like to provide you with some snow safety information to keep you safe as we deal with an abundant amount of snow and ice.

❖ When using a snowblower make sure you read the owners manual and follow these basic safety tips:

- Never leave your snowblower running and unattended.
- Make sure the discharge chute is not aimed at passing motorists or pedestrians.
- Never put your hands into the discharge chute or augers to clear stuck snow and ice.
- Never add fuel when the engine is running and hot.
- Never blow snow into the roadway.
- And make sure you know how to turn the machine off quickly.

❖ When the need arises to clear your roof follow these recommendations:

- When possible, use long-handled snow rakes or poles.
- If you must use a ladder, make certain that the base is securely anchored. Ask a friend, neighbor or adult family member to hold the ladder while you climb.
- Know where the snow is going to fall before clearing the area.
- Make certain not to contact electrical wires.
- If possible, do not attempt to clear the roof alone.
- If you're afraid of heights or think the job is too big for you, HIRE HELP.

❖ Parents should be aware of some simple safety tips for their children when they go sledding or tobogganing:

- Children should never use streets or roads for sledding unless they are blocked off from traffic.
- Children should sled only during daytime hours.
- Do not sled on icy hills. Sledding hills should be only snow covered.
- Never sled alone. Adults should always accompany small children.
- Children should stay out of the paths of other sledders.
- And parents, if you are sledding with your children, follow these rules yourselves.

❖ Clear snow from around fire hydrants near your home for your own safety.