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Heavy Snow Poses Danger For Farmers, Homeowners

Tuesday, 02/08/11 6:13pm

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Neal Charnoff



VPR Photo/ S. Keese

A barn attached to a house collapsed in Chester, a half a mile from a barn that collapsed trapping between 20 and 30 cows.

(Host) All the recent snow in our region has created potentially dangerous situations for homeowners and farmers. VPR's Neal Charnoff has more:

(Charnoff) There have been a number of building collapses in the Northeast due to all the snow collecting on roofs.

Kelly Loftus is with the Vermont Department of Agriculture. Loftus says the best way to avoid a barn collapse is to get the snow off the roof as soon as possible. She says her department offers a number of safety tips.

(Loftus) "Work to insure an even unloading from both sides at a time, it's also helpful to work in pairs if possible, to use a safety line if you're clearing a steep pitch, and to plan an escape route if something goes wrong."

(Charnoff) Loftus says that anyone with questions should contact the Agency of Agriculture or a snow-removal professional.

The state says homeowners should follow similar precautions to avoid injuries. Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca was hurt over the weekend after he fell from the roof of his house in Westford while clearing snow.

He spent two days in intensive care for a head injury. Vilaseca is expected to make a full recovery.

Another area of concern is home venting systems.

Matt Cota is with the Vermont Fuel Dealer's Association. He says that when people shovel snow off their roofs, it can pile up in a way that clogs sidewall vents, forcing the heating system to shut down.

In addition to system shutdowns, Cota says there is a more dangerous element to clogged sidewall vents.

(Cota) "Worst case scenario is that it could cause the release of carbon monoxide, an odorless colorless gas that can be potentially dangerous if it collects in your house."

(Charnoff) Cota recommends that homeowners locate and clear their sidewall vents. And he also urges people to regularly maintain their home heating systems.

For VPR news, I'm Neal Charnoff.

Tags

winter safety cities

VPR News

AARP Launches Campaign For Ratepayer Refund

Wednesday, 01/18/12 7:37am

A consumer organization representing older Vermonters is launching a media campaign that

NPR News

Reports: Obama Will Reject Keystone Pipeline Proposal

Wednesday, 01/18/12 12:06pm

It will, however, let TransCanada resubmit a proposal that moves the pipeline away from the

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Public Po

News And Notes From Vermont Cities And Towns

demands a refund for ratepayers if the state's largest utility is sold. AARP-Vermont says its goal is to win back money it says consumers are owed for bailing out the utility a decade ago.

Northfield Reinstates Permit Fees

Wednesday, 01/18/12 7:04am

Bellevance Sentenced To 3 1/2 Years For Embezzlement

Wednesday, 01/18/12 6:06am

Wind Brings Scattered Power Outages

Wednesday, 01/18/12 6:06am

environmentally sensitive Sandhills area of Nebraska.

Homeless Teen Who's Up For Science Prize To Be At State Of The Union

Wednesday, 01/18/12 11:35am

Virtual Victuals: A Gamer Turns Video Game Food Into Real Food

Wednesday, 01/18/12 11:06am

Federal Authorities Charge 7 In Insider Trading Case

Wednesday, 01/18/12 10:11am



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Vermont Public Radio
365 Troy Avenue
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 655-9451

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