

University of New Hampshire
University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository

Media Relations

Administrative Offices

2-20-2015

UNH Structural Engineering Professor Available to Comment on Roof Collapses

Beth Potier

UNH Media Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.unh.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Potier, Beth, "UNH Structural Engineering Professor Available to Comment on Roof Collapses" (2015). *UNH Today*. 4615.
<https://scholars.unh.edu/news/4615>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Administrative Offices at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Media Relations by an authorized administrator of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact nicole.hentz@unh.edu.

Media Relations

February 20, 2015

UNH Structural Engineering Professor Available to Comment on Roof Collapses

DURHAM, N.H. – A structural engineering professor at the University of New Hampshire is available to discuss the dangers this season’s record snowfalls on roofs. [Ray Cook](#), associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, can discuss the science behind this winter’s many roof collapses and give advice for preventing them.

Ray Cook is available at 603-862-1411 (office), 978-884-5970 (cell) or ray.cook@unh.edu. Cook, a registered professional engineer in the state of New Hampshire, is currently teaching a course in structural design using wood framing. He can discuss ice dams, snow loading, why rain on snow is so bad, and collapse and collapse mechanisms.

When buildings are designed, Cook explains, engineers use a calculated weight of snow on the ground in the particular area and then design the roof so the chance of snow exceeding that limit is one in 50 years. Roof pitch and surface – whether snow is likely to slip off or not – are also taken into account. Most residential structures, however, are not subject to this level of engineering, and industrial structures are usually built exactly to, and not beyond, these specifications.

Cook recommends that homeowners who can safely remove snow from the ground with a roof rake do so regularly, not letting the snow build up. Ice dams, which occur when melted snow runs down the roof to the eaves, where it freezes and causes water to back up under the shingles, can be temporarily addressed by melting the ice with road salt or hot water. When ice damming is a recurring problem, the roof should be inspected and modified to allow for better ventilation.

The [University of New Hampshire](#), founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 12,300 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.

Photograph available to download:

http://www.unh.edu/news/releases/2015/02/images/rs32674_13n3840-5014.jpg

Caption: University of New Hampshire structural engineering expert Ray Cook is available to comment on hazards associated with snow on roofs.

Credit: Lisa Nugent, University of New Hampshire

-30-

Media Contact: [Beth Potier](#) | 603-862-1566 | UNH Media Relations | [@unhnews](#) | [@unhscience](#)

Copyright © 2018, The University of New Hampshire • Durham, NH 03824 • UNH main directory: (603) 862-1234.

[Media Relations](#) is a unit of [Communications & Public Affairs](#) which is a division of University Advancement.

[ADA Acknowledgement](#) | [Contact the Webmaster](#) | [UNH Today](#) | [UNH Social Media Index](#)