

MILFORD FIRE – RESCUE DEPARTMENT

ISO Class 1



72 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT. 06460
(203) 783-3773

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milford Fire Department Prepares for another Winter Storm

The Milford Fire Department is urging residents to be prepared for this Winter Storm that will arrive Tuesday and continue into Wednesday. All residents should take the time and make sure that their emergency kits are ready and that they are prepared for power outages should they occur.

Weight of snow of roofs and decks – the weight of this new snow, sleet and rain added to the tremendous weight of the existing snow load on many flat or shallow sloped roofs and decks may pose a significant risk for roof and building collapses during the storm. Although this is true, we stress that this needs to be done properly (personnel secured with fall arrest equipment) and safely. At this time we feel that homeowners doing snow removal without the proper safety equipment in place is more of a hazard than the risk of roof and deck collapse. If you have any concerns regarding your structure, please call 911 for us to investigate. If you think a collapse is imminent, evacuate all persons immediately. Especially if you hear signs such as snapping, breaking, bending or creaking and see cracked or distorted support members or sheetrock.

Power outages – On Wednesday the possibility of considerable icing may also occur causing significant power outages. Residents shall take the time now to prepare their families for an extended power outage. Residents should use caution using alternative methods of heating and lighting. Candles should not be left unattended and space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from combustibles. If portable generators are to be used for power, they should be placed outside. Working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors will offer homes protection from these problems.

Downed Wires – with the possibility of considerable icing to occur with this storm the threat of downed wires increases. If you see a downed utility wire, stop and do not go near it, keep others away from the wire. Call 911 and report the situation immediately. Treat all downed wires as live and extremely dangerous.

Snow burying hydrants - The Milford Fire Department continues to un-bury its almost 2,000 fire hydrants from the snow. Water supply is critical in the firefighting effort and without it disastrous situations can occur. If firefighters have to locate and clear the snow from the fire hydrant, precious time is lost securing the water supply. The fire will double in size every thirty (30) seconds. The Milford Fire Department has taken a pro-active stance and has a policy for snow removal. Please assist us, if you have a fire hydrant in front of your property, take the time and remove the snow from around it. Also, if you are plowing snow, be cautious of the fire hydrants and please do not place plowed snow in or around the fire hydrants.

At this time, we would like to thank all of the Citizens and Visitors of Milford for the assistance and support. Many have taken on the back breaking work of digging out of the hydrants and we appreciate your assistance tremendously.

###

Captain Christopher Zak, Public Information Officer
Milford Fire / Rescue Department
72 New Haven Avenue
Milford, CT. 06460
Mobile: (203) 996-2148
Email: Czak@ci.milford.ct.us