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SINGLESOURCE OFFERS ADVICE TO OWNERS OF COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RETAIL FACILITIES CARRYING HEAVY SNOW LOADS

PITTSBURGH, PA. FEBRUARY 11, 2010 – SingleSource, a leading North Fayette Township based leading designer of solar ready and traditional roofing systems is offering advice to commercial, industrial and retail building owners experiencing heavy snow loads on flat roof surfaces.

“Due to heavy snows within the past week, a growing number of building owners are becoming increasingly concerned about the weight of accumulated snow on their facilities, commented Gary Kassem, President of SingleSource. “Compacted, drifted snow can weigh as much as 20-30 pounds per cubic foot, which translates into extremely high loads on roof structures when you have short-term snow accumulations of 2 feet or more.”

According to Kassem, building owners need to constantly be on the lookout for signs of trouble when snow loads are high. They should also be prepared to address safety issues before sending any employees up to the roof to clear it.

“First and foremost, if you notice any signs of sagging or deflection, clear the building and call in professional help immediately. This is a serious situation that can be made worse by putting people – and more weight—on the roof surface, commented Kassem. “If the roof structure doesn’t show signs of deflection, send a few people up to the roof to begin snow removal.”

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If you are going to send people up to clear your roof surface, Kassem offered the following advice:

- Make sure everyone on the roof is wearing safety equipment and is securely tethered to the roof. Snow, ice and high winds can increase the likelihood of falling off the roof and sustaining significant injury.
- Don't shovel all the way down to the roof surface. Shovels can cut through the membrane.
- Don't use sharp instruments to remove snow or ice buildups.
- Don't try to pry off ice accumulations.
- Don't use heat devices, such as torches, to remove ice or snow accumulations -- they can damage the roof surface and have the potential to start a fire.
- Secure the area around the perimeter of the building while roof clearing is underway to avoid injuring people on the ground.
- Remove snow carefully around fittings that penetrate the roof and around parapets and edge caps.

“If you have any doubts about what you are doing on your roof, call a professional, “ commented Kassem. “Doing so could help you avoid leaks and roof surface damage, and may significantly reduce the potential for personal injury.

About SingleSource

SingleSource is headquartered in North Fayette Township, just outside Pittsburgh, PA, and is a leading designer of solar ready and traditional roofing systems. SingleSource is the only resource that can handle Photovoltaic Arrays (PV) installation, ongoing roof maintenance, finance and the true cost of ownership, as well as issues related to third party ownership (PPA type) and the inherent conflicts of interest. The company utilizes time-tested technologies and rigorous performance standards to ensure the best possible solutions at the lowest possible price for its customers. SingleSource provides custom cost-effective and comprehensive solutions to the roofing needs of clients throughout the United States.