

Damage to buildings from snow and cold weather

Did you know a 1cm thick covering of freshly fallen snow at 4C covering a 10m x 10m area weighs approximately 100kg. As it compresses and ices it can weigh more.

Snow and ice are really quite unexpectedly heavy.

Snow and ice causes many issues for buildings such as:

- on a roof it creates vertical and horizontal forces through the structure that can cause the roof, walls and canopies to deflect, bow or even collapse
- it can impair louvered ventilation systems and roof lights
- it can totally compromise explosion relief and normal venting systems as ice can seal them shut and the weight of snow can stop explosion relief vents from opening

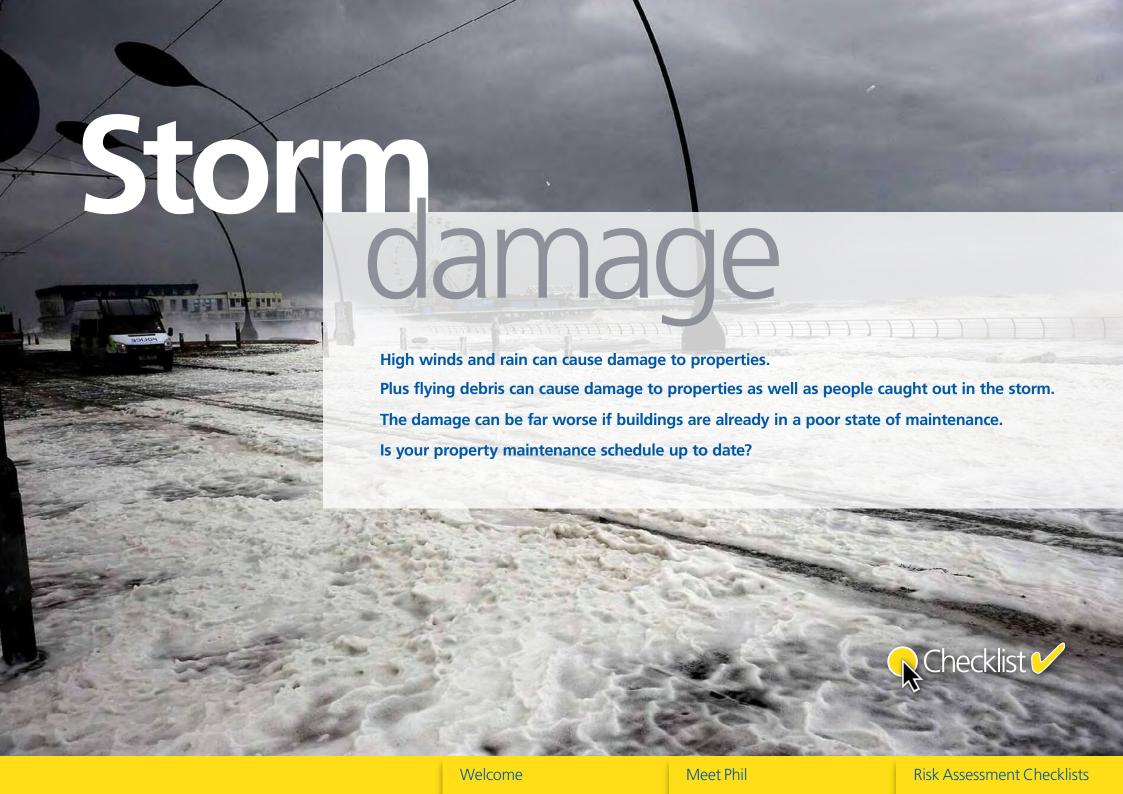
- exposed fluid filled services or equipment piping can be impacted due to freezing
- unheated buildings are vulnerable as they might freeze
- roof drainage systems can be blocked/plugged
- melting snow combined with any rainfall can easily overwhelm building drainage systems and local drainage systems in the area which can result in localised flooding.

Have you considered how a heavy snowfall might affect your property or services?

Or freezing temperatures?

Or both with a strong wind chill?





Escape of Water

With the weather turning colder the risks of burst pipes is an ever growing threat. Water damage is one of the most common sources of property insurance claims that we deal with. In the UK, burst pipes and leaks cost insurers and property owners over £860 million a year*, but the cost and disruption to businesses after a major escape of water incident, is far greater than this figure suggests.



Leaksafe Solutions recommend an on-going risk management approach to the threat of leaks and bursts, and the installation, if appropriate, of leak detection in high-risk areas. This may include automatic water shut off or immediate notification of a burst to building managers, both of which are proven to dramatically reduce the damage caused by escape of water. These solutions can be tailored to the building, its use and available budget.

Further guidance is available from Leaksafe Solutions Ltd:

Telephone 0344 848 0488 Email info@leaksafe.com www.leaksafe.com

*Association of British Insurers





Employees and members of the public suffer a steep increase in slipping incidents during snowy and icy weather.

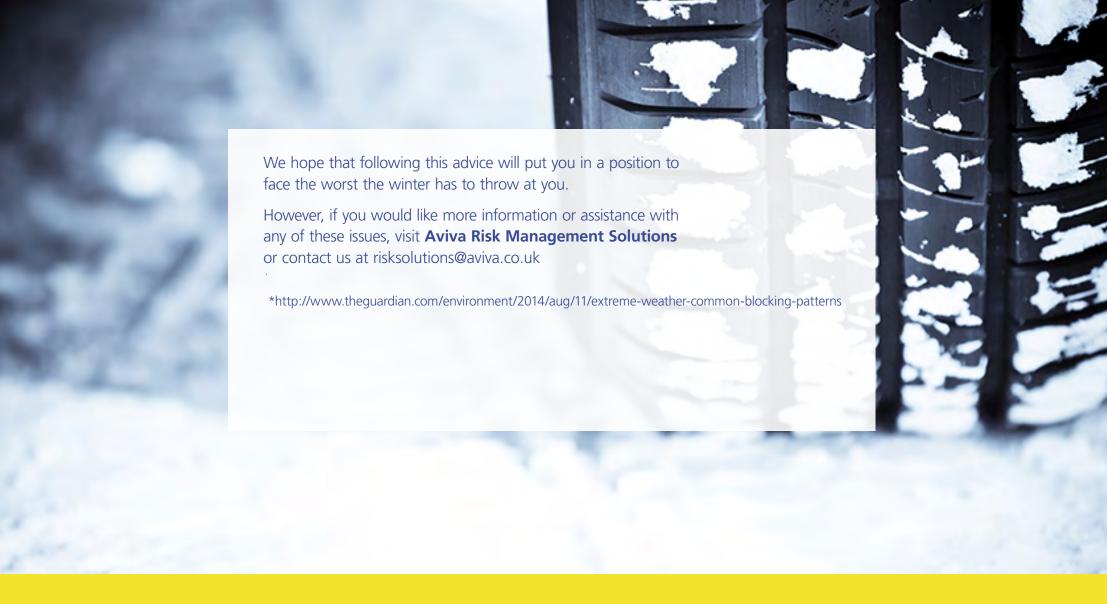
How can you keep them safe?













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