



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

ROBERT T. KING, PE, LEED AP

DIRECTOR OF CAPITAL PROJECTS & PLANNING

February 11, 2015

Good morning Mayor-

Capital Projects was asked to address concerns regarding the weight of snow on our Municipal Buildings and Schools, given the historic snowfall that the City has experienced recently.

The Department requested our "on-call" architecture firm to complete a site visit and assessment at two of our schools today (02-11-15). The two locations identified were the High School and the Winter Hill School.

Based on recommendations and standard industry practice, once snow reaches depths of 18-inches, crews should be mobilized to remove and clean the roofs. During our site visit this morning, we observed large sections of the High School roof with snow depths ranging from 6-inches to 24-inches. Snow drifts on this roof approached 4-feet in depth. At the Winter Hill School, snow depths were typically 18-inches to 36-inches deep. Snow drifts on this roof approached 5-foot and in some locations 6-foot depths.


Based on the observations, the decision was made to take a sample of the snow on both buildings to determine its density and to complete a review of any available structural plans for both buildings. Whether a building is safe depends on a number of factors, include roof type, construction technique/material, age and condition of the structure and the weight of the snow. Our "on-call" architectural firm is completing that review now. Based on the results on those tests, additional locations may be recommended for review prior to the City making a final recommendation on re-opening these building for use.

Given the snow depths that were witnessed this morning, it is recommended that the buildings remain closed until we have a more technical understanding of the current loads and the original design considerations of the buildings.

As of 9:30am the Capital Project team has visually inspected the following schools:

School	Average Snow	Drift Depth
High School	0.5 – 2 feet	4 feet
Winter Hill School	1.5 – 3 feet	5 – 6 feet
Kennedy School	TBD	
Capuano School	1.5 - 2 feet	5 feet
Healy School	3 feet	5 feet
East Somerville School	1.5 – 2 feet	3 feet
West Somerville Neighborhood School	3 feet	4 – 5 feet
Cummings School	1.5 – 2 feet	3 feet
Argenziano Elementary	TBD	
Brown School	TBD	
Edgerly Center	TBD	

The Department will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. Any questions, on the information above and we are available to discuss.

Thanks- 

Robert King

Director of Capital Projects and Planning

