**ALERT! The Hazards of Icicles!**

Icicles and rooftop snow are the latest danger facing anybody who ventures outside this winter. Freezing temperatures across the country have led to the build-up of ice and snow on cell towers, buildings and roofs – with EMS called into action to deal with some of the dangers. The numbers of people injured or killed this year by falling icicles is reported to be still going up and the news isn’t good.

The fact that icicles are dangerous shouldn’t come as a surprise–they’re essentially little frozen missiles, usually falling from great heights–but the number of people harmed this year is surprisingly high. Don’t be complacent next time you are outside near a cell tower, house or buildings with icicles. **That piece of ice can kill!!**

We have to watch out for those falling pieces of ice from the sky above that can be up to 1000 lbs. falling toward you at a high rate of speed. Yes that could be the size of a refrigerator falling from the water or cell tower above. It can kill and severely damage vehicles and equipment.

How do icicles form? The heat emanating from buildings, cause ice to melt and then refreeze into icicles hanging from gutters, the edges of roofs, or any place water is able to drip. Continued cold temperatures with periods of slight warming also can create icicles that “grow” and become larger, longer, and exponentially more dangerous to those who pass below them. Icicles may become several feet long, with a large diameter at the top, and if they fall from as little as one floor height, can cause property damage, injury and possibly even death.

Ice can form quickly on the cold metal of water or cell towers and roofs of buildings even with little or no rain, snow or much moisture. When ice coats an antenna, which is likely from 50 or hundred feet up; even in mild winter weather, it becomes a serious hazard. Ice forms around the cold metal and builds while temperatures remain below freezing. When that ice warms and falls from the tower, it becomes a hazard to the transmitter buildings, vehicles, and people on the ground

Icicles look pretty with the sunlight and hanging from the roof as a winter scene but, they are like sharp weapons. They are potentially lethal icicles hanging from a rooftops and towers around the world.

In fact, hundreds of people are injured or killed each year, in the US from spear-like icicles or large chunks of ice falling from several stories in height. Be aware of your surroundings and look above if you are close to a building, or cell tower for falling ice. If you must be in the vicinity of hanging icicles, wear a hard hat.