Severe winter weather can negatively impact your business and bottom line if you’re unprepared for a storm. Some of the greatest concerns for business owners include property damage, business continuity planning and loss of profit. Prepare your property for the unexpected.

### Frozen Pipes

A small crack leaking for one day can release over 250 gallons of water.

**Prevention:**

- Maintain 65°F or higher in the building during the winter.
- Wrap high-risk pipes (i.e., those in unheated areas) with heat cables or heat tape.
- Disconnect outdoor hoses and shut off the indoor water valve.
- Visually inspect the exterior of your building and seal any air leaks close to the pipes with insulation or caulk.
- During unusually cold snaps, allow one faucet to drip warm water slowly, which can aid in preventing pipes from freezing.

### Blackouts

Blackouts during the winter months are primarily caused by the weight of ice and snow on wires combined with downed tree limbs.

**Prevention:**

- Plan to maintain heat to avoid pipes from freezing through the use of supplemental heat or back-up power.
- Develop a communication plan for all critical employees.
- Arrange for alternate supplies of critical materials.
- Implement a procedure to maintain your building’s protective features such as alarm systems and sprinkler systems.
- Plan to deal with product spoilage, which can include transfer of product, accelerated delivery to customers and/or delayed deliveries from suppliers, etc.

### Snow or Ice Build-Up

Most roofs are designed to withstand 30 lbs. of weight per sq. ft.

**Prevention:**

- Survey the condition of your roof and have all required repairs made to the roof surface, including all flashing and fasteners.
- Check for heat leaking into attics and concealed spaces under the roof to minimize the potential for ice dams.
- Inspect gutters, downspouts and rooftops for damage, blockage, vegetation and any other fault that would prevent their proper operation.
- Create a snow removal plan or contract for snow removal and ice treatment.