



# Snow Loads

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of ASCE 7-16*

Michael O'Rourke, Ph.D., P.E.

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# Snow Loads

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# Contents

Preface *ix*

Unit Conversions *xi*

## **Chapter 1 Introduction 1**

## **Chapter 2 Ground Snow Loads 5**

2.1 The Map: Influence of Latitude, Elevation, and Coastlines 8

2.2 The Map: Site-Specific Case Studies 9

2.3 State Tables 9

Example 2-1. Ground Snow Loads 11

## **Chapter 3 Flat Roof Snow Loads 13**

3.1 Measured Conversion Factors 13

3.2 Flat Roof Snow Load 17

3.3 Exposure Factor 18

3.4 Thermal Factor 19

3.5 Importance Factor 20

3.6 Minimum Snow Loads for Low-Sloped Roofs 21

3.7 Snow Load for Near Ground Surfaces 22

Example 3-1. Roof Exposure 22

## **Chapter 4 Sloped Roof Snow Loads 25**

4.1 Snow Sliding 25

4.2 Air-Supported Structures 31

4.3 Overall Comparison with Observations 32

Example 4-1. Uniform Roof Snow Load, Monoslope Roof (1 on 12) 33

Example 4-2. Uniform Roof Snow Load, Monoslope Roof (4 on 12) 34

Example 4-3. Uniform Roof Snow Load, Wide Gable Roof 35

<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Partial Loads</b>	<b>37</b>
5.1	Continuous-Beam Systems	37
5.2	Other Structural Systems	40
	Example 5-1. Uniform and Partial Snow Loads, Monoslope Roof with Overhang	41
	Example 5-2. Partial Snow Load, Continuous Purlins in Gable Roof (1 on 12)	44
	Example 5-3. Partial Snow Load, Continuous Purlins in Gable Roof (3 on 12)	45
	Example 5-4. Partial Snow Load, Cantilevered Roof Girder System	46
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Unbalanced Loads</b>	<b>49</b>
6.1	Hip and Gable Roofs	49
6.2	Curved Roofs	53
6.3	Sawtooth-Type Roofs	54
6.4	Domes	55
	Example 6-1. Unbalanced Snow Load, Narrow Gable Roof	55
	Example 6-2. Unbalanced Snow Load, Wide Gable Roof	55
	Example 6-3. Unbalanced Snow Load, Asymmetric Gable Roof	56
	Example 6-4. Balanced and Unbalanced Snow Loads, Curved Roof	58
	Example 6-5. Unbalanced Snow Load, Sawtooth Roof	60
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Drifts on Lower Roofs</b>	<b>63</b>
7.1	Leeward Drift	65
7.2	Windward Drift	70
7.3	Adjacent Roofs	72
7.4	Roof Steps in Series	72
	Example 7-1. Roof Step Drift Load	73
	Example 7-2. Roof Step Drift, Limited Height	75
	Example 7-3. Roof Step Drift, Low Ground Snow Load	76
	Example 7-4. Roof Step Drift, Adjacent Structure	78
	Example 7-5. Roof Steps in Series	79
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Roof Projections</b>	<b>81</b>
	Example 8-1. Parapet Wall Drift	84
	Example 8-2. Rooftop Unit Drift	87
	Example 8-3. Parapet Wall Drift, Low Ground Snow Load	88
	Example 8-4. Elimination of RTU Drift	90
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>Sliding Snow Loads</b>	<b>91</b>
9.1	Adjacent Roofs	91

9.2 Separated Roofs 93

Example 9-1. Sliding Snow Load, Residential Gable Roof  
(4 on 12) 94

Example 9-2. Sliding Snow Load, Commercial Gable Roof  
(1 on 12) 95

Example 9-3. Sliding Load, Separated Roof 97

**Chapter 10 Rain-on-Snow Surcharge Loads 99**

Example 10-1. Uniform Design Snow Load, Monoslope Roof  
(1/4 on 12) 103

Example 10-2. Uniform Design Snow Load, Gable Roof  
(1/4 on 12) 103

**Chapter 11 Ponding Instability and Existing Roofs 105**

11.1 Ponding Instability 105

11.2 Existing Roofs 107

Example 11-1. Susceptible Bays Purlin-Parallel Geometry 108

Example 11-2. Susceptible Bays Purlin-Perpendicular Geometry 108

**Chapter 12 Open-Frame Equipment Structures 109**

12.1 Floor-Level Snow Loads 109

12.2 Snow Load on Piping and Cable Trays 110

Example 12-1. Isolated Cable Tray 110

Example 12-2. Adjacent Cable Trays 111

**Chapter 13 Design Examples 113**

Design Example 1 113

Design Example 2 119

Design Example 3 125

**Chapter 14 Frequently Asked Questions 131**

References 157

Index 159

About the Author 163



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# Preface

This guide provides practicing structural engineers with a detailed description of the snow load provisions of Standard ASCE/SEI 7-16, *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The intent of this guide is to present the research and philosophy that underpins the provisions and to illustrate the application of the provisions through numerous examples. Readers and users of this guide will know how to use the provisions, as well as the reasoning behind them. In this fashion, users may be able to address nonroutine snow loading issues that are not explicitly covered in ASCE 7-16.

This guide introduces provisions that are new to ASCE 7-16, including ground snow load tables for selected western states and New Hampshire as well as snow load requirements for Open Frame Equipment Support structures.

Every effort has been made to make the illustrative example problems in this guide correct and accurate. The author welcomes comments regarding inaccuracies, errors, or different interpretations. The views expressed and the interpretation of the snow load provisions made in this guide are those of the author and not of the ASCE 7 Standards Committee or the ASCE organization.

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The author would like to acknowledge the past and present members of the Snow and Rain Loads Committee of ASCE 7. Without their comments, questions, and discussions, the development of Chapter 7 in ASCE/SEI Standard 7-16, and subsequently this guide, would not have been possible.

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