

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North

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Circumpolar Climate Events Map – Our monthly maps document monthly incidents around the circumpolar north. [Google Maps](#) (If you have problems try using Firefox or Google Chrome browser.)

Another big storm hits Alaska as weary residents dig out *January 12, 2012.* The worst winter anyone can remember has piled snow so high people can't see out the windows, kept a tanker in ice-choked waters from delivering fuel on time and turned snow packed roofs into sled runs. In the town of Cordova more than 26 feet (7.92 meters) of snow has fallen since November and the National Guard shovel crews and other costs now exceed \$775,000. [Associated Press](#)

As Alaska winter trudges on, how much snow can your roof support? *January 12, 2012.* Snow loads vary across Alaska. For example winter snow loads can range from up to 300 pounds per square foot (psi) in Whittier down to 25 psi in northern Alaska. Many factors affect snow load including moisture content, seasonal accumulation and drifting. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

The scoop on the dangers of shoveling snow *December 1, 2011.* Urban legends warn that shoveling snow can cause heart attacks. Dr. Adrian Baranchuk and his team from Queen's School of Medicine in Canada reviewed patient records from the two previous winter seasons and discovered that of 500 patients who came to the hospital with heart problems, 7 percent (35 patients) had started experiencing symptoms while shoveling snow. "This is a huge number" say Dr. Baranchuk. [Science Daily](#)

Climate change sinks another Alaska village *January 3, 2012.* The permafrost has sunk so much in one Northwest Alaska village that bridges are shifting, outdoor stairways hang over the ground and sagging water pipes are prone to break and freeze. Those are a few of the ways climate change is affecting life in the Inupiat village of Selawik, according to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Center for Climate and Health. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

Video of the week – Snowbound Cordova struggles to dig out *January 11, 2012.* More than 15 feet of snow has fallen on Cordova, Alaska, burying the town. Now, rainfall is making the snow heavier and more difficult to remove from the streets. In this 3 minute video, Ben Tracy of CBS News reports on the struggle to dig out Cordova and the reasons behind the big storms. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public health. For back issues click [here](#). Click [here](#) if you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe.

Regards - Mike

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