



## Falling Ice & Snow from USOC Building Causes Hazard, Concern for Future

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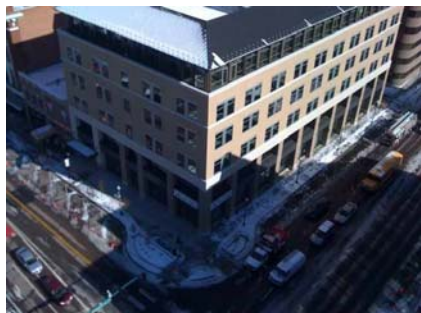
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COLORADO SPRINGS - Large chunks of snow and ice fell nearly 70 feet from the pitched roof of the new United States Olympic Committee headquarters building at Tejon and Colorado in downtown Colorado Springs Monday morning and afternoon, damaging several cars and forcing the closure of one of downtown's busiest streets for several hours.

The problem began once the sun rose high enough in the clear southeastern sky to begin melting the snow that had fallen Saturday and Sunday. Snow retention devices meant to prevent snow and ice from falling from the roof failed for an unknown reason, according to a statement released by OZ Architecture. OZ says the devices have functioned appropriately during recent snowstorms. The Colorado Springs Fire Department was forced to close one westbound lane of Colorado Avenue nearest the building for most of the morning, and by lunchtime Tejon Street was completely closed between Pikes Peak and Colorado in anticipation of more falling snow and ice from the building's west side. Pedestrians were prevented from using the sidewalks adjacent to the USOC building.



Fire crews were also concerned that heavier chunks of ice could slide off the north-facing side of the roof and onto the roof of the adjoining building, which houses the Olive Branch Restaurant. The vacant second floor of that building was put off-limits as a precaution.

The USOC is scheduled to move into the new building at 27 South Tejon Street in March.



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