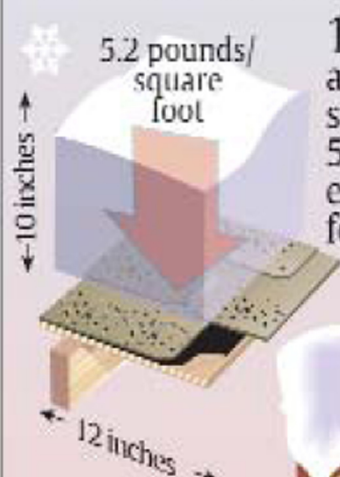


# When the snow is as high as an elephant

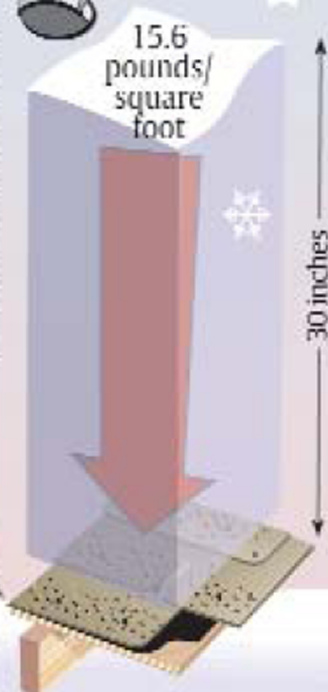
As snow piles up on roofs it adds weight that may not have been accounted for when a structure was built. If the 'snow load,' which depends mostly on the water content of snow rather than the depth, is too great, the building's roof could collapse.



1. On average a 10-inch snowfall adds 5.2 pounds to each square foot of roof.



2. If no melting occurs and a second storm dumps 20 inches of snow on the roof, another 10.4 pounds is added to each square foot.



Fact: Yakutat, Alaska, has picked up about 100 inches of snow in the past two weeks. Snow loads on roofs are estimated to be more than 50 pounds per square foot.

3. A typical home's 1,800-square-foot roof would have 28,080 pounds of snow resting on it — the weight of three adult elephants.

