

Snow Removal Policy

With the advent of each North Idaho snow season comes the concern about access to work, school and business. The City of Sandpoint has adopted this snow removal policy to serve as a guide for city operations and to inform roadway users of the process by which snow removal situations will be addressed.

Due to conditions beyond anyone's control e.g., uneven road surfaces, cars driving on new snow before plows arrive, etc., the city cannot always assure a completely bare roadway surface. Nonetheless, the safety of the traveling public is the paramount concern of the City. Our goal is to have all city roadways passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped.

When Snow Plows Will Be Dispatched

The City will usually not dispatch snow plows *until after a snowfall has stopped*. It is not economical to continuously plow each street and there are times when it is too hazardous to the snow plow drivers to be plowing. However, the Public Works Director will make exceptions if the snowfall appears to be heavy and sustained.

If snowfall stops during regular working hours, plows may be dispatched at that time. If snowfall stops during the night or early morning hours, plows will be dispatched at an early morning hour. Weekend plowing will be handled in a similar fashion.

Exception: Snow plows normally stay off emergency snow routes during peak traffic hours to avoid congestion and visibility problems.

The Snow Plow Routes And Parking Along Those Routes

Emergency Snow Routes A system of Emergency Snow Routes has been established to assure access to critical facilities, emergency services and trunk highways. Upon an accumulation of two (2) to four (4) inches of snow, at the discretion of the Public Works Director, snow plows will plow the snow from the center of the roadway to the curblines or roadway shoulder where it will be stored.

Commercial Access Routes Upon an accumulation of two (2) to four (4) inches of snow, at the discretion of the Public Works Director, snow plows will plow the snow from the center of the roadway to the curblines or roadway shoulder where it will be stored. See Attached Map.

Upon the accumulation of measurable snow, parking on Emergency Snow Routes and Commercial Access Routes is prohibited until the entire width of the roadway has been plowed.

Downtown Business Sector Upon an accumulation of two (2) to four (4) inches of snow, at the discretion of the Public Works Director, snow plows will plow the snow from the curb line to the center of the roadway from where it will be removed and hauled away. Normally the plowing and removal will occur simultaneously. However, certain conditions may cause the piled snow to remain for a period of time. After snow has been plowed from the curb line, depositing snow from sidewalks onto the roadway is prohibited. Depositing snow from parking areas and alleyways onto the street is prohibited at all times.

Parking is prohibited in the downtown Business Sector until the snow has been plowed from the curblines.

Residential Streets Upon an accumulation of two (2) to four (4) inches of snow, at the discretion of the Public Works Director, snow plows will plow ALL residential streets. (Residential streets are defined as all roadways not classified as emergency snow routes, downtown business sector or commercial access routes.) They will plow to each curblines on alternate days:

In residential zones only, on odd numbered calendar days, parking is allowed on the side of the street with odd numbered addresses; and on even numbered calendar days, parking is allowed on the side of the street with even numbered addresses.

Vehicles left on streets during parking prohibitions are subject to removal (towing) by the Sandpoint Police Department.

The Use Of De-Icing And Traction Agents

The EPA's and the City's concern for air pollution limit our use of sand and rock salt. Although rock salt and sand work great on snow and ice, after the snow season passes, cars and trucks kick sand and rock salt residue into our air.

We will use, however, crushed rock (anti-skid) materials at intersections to provide stopping/starting traction.

A chemical de-icing agent (magnesium chloride) is used on selected roadways to control the formation of ice. Magnesium Chloride, a naturally occurring mineral, is the least damaging agent to cars, plants and people and is effective down to 13 degrees Fahrenheit.

Personal Property and City Responsibility

Mail boxes and Fences

Mail boxes damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mail boxes that were properly located and installed in accordance with City of Sandpoint and United States Postal Service standards, and which were damaged by actual contact with City equipment, will be considered for repair at city expense.

Fences in the right of way may be damaged by snow operations. The City is not responsible for damage to fences that are located within the street right of way.

Depositing snow on public roadways

City residents are reminded that it is unlawful to deposit snow upon public roadways. Piles of snow left on or near the roadway can freeze into a solid mass, creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Collisions and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

Assistance to stranded motorists

City personnel may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement or emergency personnel. City employees will not attempt to remove vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.

Driveways

City plows are equipped with snow gates so that when the plow arrives at a driveway, it will make every effort to not plow in the driveway.

Sidewalks

It is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain the sidewalk in front of their home or business and keep the sidewalk clear of snow and ice.

Communicating With The City About Snow Removal Conditions/ Problems

Questions or concerns regarding snow removal operations may be directed to the Public Works Department at 263-3407 between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or the City Shop at 263-3428 between 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Snow removal is a partnership between residents and the City. Part of *everyone's* job is to communicate their questions and concerns.

Local radio stations KPND (93.5 FM) and KSPT (1400 AM) should be monitored for information on road conditions and snow emergency declarations. This information will also be available on the City's web site at www.cityofsandpoint.com.