

SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY MAINTAINED STREET SYSTEM

Purpose

Snow and ice control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The City annually budgets funds for the management of snow and ice for the City maintained system. The City will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The City will utilize technologies, products, training, and best practices to mitigate environmental impacts from salt use while ensuring for public safety of the City maintained street system.

Goals

- 1) Maintain streets in a reasonable driving condition
- 2) Allow emergency vehicles access during weather events
- 3) Have all streets and cul-de-sacs plowed within 9 hours after the snow has quit falling

Snow and Ice Management Operations

Each year the Public Works Department prepares a map of the City showing the City maintained street system. The City is divided into routes in which snow and ice management will be performed by City employees and private companies under contract to the City. The routes are periodically revised to correspond with budgetary, equipment and personnel resources available. Within each route, the major streets, as well as hills, bridges, and curves that require extra care, are identified.

The start of snow and ice management operations for any storm is dependent upon immediate and anticipated conditions. The most critical time periods are weekday morning and evening rush-hours. When feasible, the City will attempt to manage snow and ice on City maintained major streets prior to these rush hour periods. Normally major streets and areas identified for extra care are completed first. Once these priority areas have been plowed and opened, the remaining streets and cul-de-sacs in the residential, commercial, and industrial areas may be plowed as conditions warrant. Depending upon weather conditions, a full-City plowing event will typically not be declared until snow has accumulated to 2 inches in that event.

Each snow and ice event is unique due to the many changing weather conditions. Maintenance requirements may vary for each event:

- Freezing rain, sleet, or ice. The response can vary from a single truck to the entire fleet.
- Snowfall of less than 2". The plowing plan varies depending upon temperature and time of year. It is possible that only major streets are plowed with ice control applied at hills,

bridges and curves. It may be necessary to complete a full plowing if a series of nuisance snowfalls resulting in a buildup of snow on the streets.

– Snowfall of 2” – 6”. Depending on the timing of the event, every effort will be made to provide reasonable driving conditions at critical times, mainly weekday mornings and evening rush hours. Once the snowfall has ended a complete plowing will be performed. All plow routes will be re-checked and re-plowed as needed.

– Snowfall of 6” or more. Depending on the rate of accumulation and other weather factors it may be necessary to continually plow major streets until snowfall has let up at which time operations would then move into other streets including residential.

Under severe conditions or where weather patterns suggest additional snow and ice, streets may not be plowed “full width” and residential areas may be delayed. Normally within 24 hours after the City maintained street system is opened, the final full width plowing and salting, as needed, will proceed.

Procedures and Responsibility

The Public Works Director or Street Manager in coordination with the Street Supervisor, or designated representative, determines when operations begin based upon immediate and anticipated conditions including number of personnel and contractors under the direction of the City.

Exceptions

In the event of equipment failure, extreme snowfall or other unanticipated events including the necessity of resting snowplow crews, deviation from these standards may be appropriate.

Mailboxes

In those instances in which the U.S. Postal Service does not provide door to door delivery, it is necessary for property owners to install mailboxes on City owned right-of-way immediately adjacent to the street curb. If a mailbox is damaged as a result of a direct contact by snow removal equipment during snow removal, the City, at its option, will repair or replace the mailbox or reimburse the property owner up to \$200. Documentation of costs incurred must be provided by the property owner for reimbursement.

The City will not replace decorative, ornamental, or brick type construction. The City uses a standard 4x4 treated post and standard box.

If a mailbox or attached appurtenance is damaged due to indirect contact, including the force of snow generated by the snow removal vehicle, the City will assume no responsibility.

Mail Delivery

Snow plow operators make every effort to remove snow as close to the curb line as practical to provide access to mailboxes for USPS and other carriers. However, it is not possible to provide perfect conditions while also attempting to minimize damage to mailboxes from indirect contact given the size of equipment and amount of snow pushed into the boulevard. Thus the final clearing adjacent to mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident and subject to the delivery requirements of USPS and other carriers. The

City does not possess the resources to respond to and plow in front of individual mailboxes.

Landscaping

Landscaping, including nursery and inanimate materials that are installed or encroach on public owned right-of-way are permitted but the owner assumes all risk of damage. The City will assume no responsibility for damages incurred as the result of snow removal and ice control activities except that the City, at its option, will place seed in areas where turf has been damaged, only on City owned right-of-way that is damaged as the result of plowing activities.

Lawn Sprinkling and Lighting Systems

The City will assume no responsibility for damage to exterior lighting systems and similar landscaping installed in City owned right-of-way. The City will reimburse the property owner up to \$35 per sprinkler head for damage to underground sprinkling systems resulting from direct contact with City snow removal equipment. Documentation of costs incurred must be provided by the property owner for reimbursement.

Driveways

One of the most frequent concerns of residents in removal of snow from City maintained streets is that snow must be deposited in driveways during plowing operations. Snow accumulated on the plow blade has no place to go but in the boulevard areas, which includes driveways, and at times the accumulation can be significant. The City does not possess the resources to attempt to provide private driveway cleaning after plowing City maintained roads and therefore will not return to clear snow deposited at the ends of a driveways as a result of clearing the City maintain roadway.

Cul-De-Sacs

The snow removal on cul-de-sacs requires snow to be deposited into the boulevard areas around the perimeter of the cul-de-sac. The City will place snow in any open boulevard area even if the property owner places snow stakes along the back of the street or curb line. The City will not place snow based on individual property owner feedback.

Snow Storage

Ongoing snow and ice control efforts require the use of City owned right-of-ways and easements for storage of plowed snow. Depending upon the volume of snow, storage within right-of-way could create sight obstruction at intersections because it is impossible financially and practically to remove all snow from intersection corners.

When cul-de-sacs are plowed the snow will be stored in the boulevard areas but at times may be temporarily stored within the center and transported to the boulevard at a later time.

Ice Control

The City uses salt and brine solution to assist with ice control however the City does not have a bare pavement policy thus bare and dry pavement should not be expected. For environmental reasons, the City limits the use of these materials to the minimum necessary

to provide improved driving conditions. The City is not responsible for damage to grass or driveways caused by the ice control products.

Unusual Circumstances

The Public Works Director or his or her designee is authorized to depart from this policy to settle unusual claims when circumstances warrant, as determined by the City Manager. These unusual situations shall be handled in a manner similar to the way other claims against the City are handled.

Review

City staff will review this Policy after each winter season and may make recommendations for change to the City Council as warranted.

*Resolution 2018-327, September 25, 2018
(Supersedes Resolution 2013-307, September 24, 2013; Resolution 2007-319, July 24, 2007;
Resolution 2002-195, April 23, 2002; Resolution 97-69, January 22, 1997; Resolution 92-30,
January 6, 1992)*