

STREET DEPARTMENT SNOW REMOVAL AND SALT USE POLICY

I. GOAL

To provide for the clearing and removal of ice and snow from City streets and to thereby assure safe travel throughout the City at all times.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To plow all City streets within 10 hours after cessation of all snow storms.
- To treat all arterials, collectors, bus routes, hills and hazardous intersections with chemicals and abrasives and to achieve bare pavement conditions at these locations.
- To remove snow from the downtown area within 48 hours of the cessation of all snow storms.
- To clear all sidewalks adjacent to public owned land of snow within 72 hours of the cessation of all snow storms.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITY STATEMENT

This program which includes snow plowing, chemical spreading, snow removal, sidewalk shoveling and equipment maintenance and repairs is directly dependent on annual winter weather conditions which can change from year to year and are largely unpredictable from one given year to the next.

Winter weather conditions vary greatly from one storm to the next and frequently change even during the course of a storm. Therefore, the methods used to deal with varying conditions must change according to what the weather conditions dictate.

Generally, arterials and collectors are treated with chemicals as soon as snow begins to accumulate. It is important to prevent the bonding of packed snow to the street surface so that subsequent plowing and chemical applications will be more effective.

Snow plowing activities can commence at any hour of the day so streets may be cleared and made passable for the following work day. Nine 34,000 G.V.W. dump trucks equipped with plows, wings, and tailgate spreaders, and an end loader quite typically carry out routine snow plowing activities. All of the City's streets are plowed back as close to the curb as possible.

Snow plow activities normally begins when a snow emergency has been called (Municipal Code 70.14) this occurs when snowfall accumulation reaches 3 inches, whereas chemical spreading operations are used primarily to clear or bare up streets when snowfall accumulations are less than 2 inches in depth. Tailgate salt spreaders customarily apply salt during chemical spreading operations. Downtown snow removal begins when snowfall accumulations reach the point where pedestrian and vehicular traffic becomes restricted in the downtown areas. Snowblowers normally complete snow removal activities.

Equipment maintenance ensures that all equipment necessary to effectively remove or control snow is operable when needed.

IV. SNOW PLOWING

A. Goals

- All residential and arterial streets will be plowed back to the curb within 12 hours of a major storm.
- Only major streets will be plowed during a major storm.

This process begins when snow accumulations reach 3 inches or more and it is necessary to plow snow onto the terraces so as to assure safe and efficient vehicular traffic. If possible, our plowing operations typically begin at 12:00 midnight and continue until the entire City is plowed back to the curb line. This operation will normally last 8 to 10 hours. This operation requires experienced and skilled plow operators who are well trained in the operational use of plow trucks. In a typical storm, it is expected that the major streets in Stoughton will be salted to prevent the packing and bonding of snow to street pavement. These streets are then plowed back when salt application operations can not keep up with snow accumulation and/or snow depths reach 3 inches or more. If extremely cold weather is expected immediately after the snow storm, it may be necessary to start snow plowing activities immediately, rather than waiting until 12:00 midnight to start up City-wide snow plowing activities. This will allow us to plow back snow when it is soft rather than letting it freeze up and make it more difficult, maybe even impossible. During extremely heavy snow storms (accumulation of 7 inches of snow or more), it may be necessary to plow twice during a single snowstorm.

Major arterials are plowed back, with residential ward areas plowed later. All snow is plowed back to the curb.

B. Areas of Concern

- Plow speed.
- Plow snow plume distribution.
- Man holes.
- Truck condition.
- Plow-reverse operations.
- Curb location.
- Safety - general operations.
- Mail boxes.

V. SALT APPLICATION

This operation consists primarily of the application of sodium chloride (rock salt) to City streets. Salting operations typically begin when streets and/or bridges begin to become slippery and both vehicular and pedestrian traffic becomes impacted as a result of snow and/or ice accumulations.

It is the goal of the Street Department to salt at the rate of 200 lbs per lane mile. While this may not be possible at times, it is a necessary goal to try and attain.

It is extremely important that salting activities begin as early as possible during the initial stages of an expected heavy storm so that the bonding of snow to the pavement is prevented. This is necessary to maximize snow plowing efforts.

REVISED: July 2002

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