



CITY OF REDMOND
Public Works Department

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2009
TO: PW MANAGERS, CITY COUNCIL & OTHERS
FROM: ARLENE THOMAS, TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: WINTER SNOW & ICE PLAN

City of Redmond Snow & Ice Plan

In a snow event, there are at least four lines of attack: city streets, city parking lots, public service building related sidewalks, and storm drainage.

Snow removal on city streets is handled either by the Transportation Operations Division or by private contractors coordinated by Transportation Operations, using snow plows & graders. City Parking lots are cleared by members of the Water Division, using backhoes and loaders. Sidewalks and ADA ramps around various City/County buildings are cleared by the Parks Division, using blowers, shovels and mechanical brooms, and the storm drainage system is monitored and maintained by the Wastewater Division by clearing snow off of catch basin grates, some street areas and out of gutter lines in specific areas.

The Transportation Division will monitor weather reports and other winter information sources and will move to a winter work schedule as the winter weather becomes imminent. This two-shift schedule will cover an 18 hour period daily, five days per week with on call staff coverage on the weekends. A twice daily check of the City's street conditions will be performed on Saturday and Sunday regardless of the weather for the winter season. If a storm is imminent, the street crew will be scheduled to work as needed. Normal 8 hour shifts may be extended to 12 hour shifts during heavy storm events. Working shifts allows the most efficient use of the City's snow equipment while still providing a rest period for operators. City crews put forth maximum effort during winter storm events, with prolonged storms becoming very tiring to the operators running the snow removal equipment. Equipment breakdowns, staffing availability and abrupt changes in the weather can each have drastic effects on snow removal efforts. These issues must be dealt with on an individual basis during each storm.

Priorities for snow removal and sanding on City streets are as follows: emergency routes (those routes in and around the hospital, fire & police departments), arterials & major collectors, minor collectors,

residential through streets, and finally, cul-de-sacs. Dependent on the storm path and degree of ice or snow fall, high priority arterials and collectors may have to be sanded or plowed several times before the later priorities are visited at all.

Snow will be plowed to the shoulder or side of the road or street rather than to the middle, due to lack of snow storage in subsequent storms. Where it is practical, care will be exercised to minimize the blocking of driveways and burying of sidewalks. However, Public Works recognizes that blocking driveways and sidewalks is at most times unavoidable. The burden is then with the property owner or occupant to clear them.

In accordance with City of Redmond Code 5.335, **Sidewalks** for commercial properties,

“No person in charge of property may permit or cause to exist on a public sidewalk adjoining the property of the owner or person in charge of the property, any of the following:

- A. Snow to remain on a public sidewalk for a period longer than the first six hours of daylight after the snow has stopped falling;
- B. Ice to remain on a public sidewalk after the first six hours of daylight after the ice has formed, unless the person covers the ice with sand, ashes or other suitable material to assure safe travel;”

A violation of this section is a Class B Infraction with a fine of up to \$500.

City crews may have the opportunity to open driveways on a case by case basis, if the storm dissipates to allow enough staff to move from plowing and sanding to the use of a loader or backhoe for driveway work.

Snow plowing by private contractors will be focused in two areas; the downtown business core, where snow storage interferes with an antiquated storm drain system, and in residential areas. Public Works recognizes that during some storms it will not be possible to remove all of the snow simultaneously from all of the streets. It is in the City’s best interests to make best use of all available resources. Therefore, City forces will concentrate on emergency routes, arterials and collectors in order that vehicular traffic may continue to move safely and efficiently on the City’s street network.

Low priority streets will not normally be cleared until accumulations reach six (6) inches in depth. The Transportation Operations Supervisor will call out any needed contractors once accumulations have reached six inches in depth or the bulk of the storm’s accumulation appears to have fallen. If conditions improve, contractors will be notified and operations will cease once the Transportation Operations Supervisor has determined plowing operations are no longer effective or needed. We are mindful that all dollars spent on contract snow removal produces a short term benefit to our citizens but are taken directly from our asphalt overlay program that potentially provides a 15-20 year benefit.

Special requests will be responded to once the need is verified by the Public Works Department. The response will depend on resource availability (personnel, equipment, etc) and backlog of the requests.