

CITY OF WINNEMUCCA
SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PLAN
updated JANUARY 2013

Snow and Ice Control Plan Goal:

The City of Winnemucca recognizes and affirms that each vehicle driver has the primary responsibility for the safe operation of vehicles on snowy or icy streets in a manner that is appropriate to the actual conditions of the streets, and the City desires to promote reasonably safe driving conditions for City residents by providing snow and ice removal efforts consistent with available personnel and funding for such purposes. The City goal is to ensure that the collector streets, streets adjacent to schools and medical offices, streets in the downtown business district, intersections that have experienced icing problems in the past, and streets in the steeper residential streets (collectively referred to in this Plan as “priority streets”) as designated on the attached map are cleared and/or sanded to the best extent possible prior to the heavy traffic periods. The City Public Works Supervisor, with the advice of the City Police Department on-duty personnel, will determine the appropriate level of snow and ice removal efforts to be provided.

City streets will be sanded and plowed according to the goals and priorities set forth in this plan; however, the City may adjust the priorities in the case of life threatening emergencies, or to meet challenging conditions, or to address unique circumstances.

Snow Removal Plan:

Snow will be plowed primarily to the **sides** of the streets for the following reasons:

- 1) The streets can be cleared more quickly and a much safer travel way is provided, when travel lanes are left completely clear of obstructions.
- 2) The absence of the hazardous center snow berms eliminates continuous re-plowing from berms being driven over and spread-out onto the travel lanes.
- 3) The absence of center snow berms eliminates re-sanding of the street each day due to the refreezing of the snow which has melted across the travel lanes.
- 4) The absence of center snow berms avoids the freeze/thaw cycles across the travel lanes which results in rapid deterioration of asphalt surfaces.
- 5) The quick removal of snow from the street center removes the moisture from the street surface, thus prolonging the life of asphalt surfaces.
- 6) There is a more efficient and effective use of limited personnel and funding resources, thus reducing unnecessary waste of taxpayer dollars.

Snow may be plowed to the center of the streets when a major storm occurs and the City Public Works Supervisor determines that it is advisable (for removal of accumulated snow from the streets to improve visibility, drainage and parking, for example). Private contractors may be used to assist in snow removal.

Sanding Plan:

A **6-to-1** sand-to-salt ratio will be applied to priority streets. This ratio provides adequate melting characteristics for most storms and is less damaging to asphalt and concrete street surfaces than richer mixes.

Call-out Plan:

The on-duty City Police Department supervisor (or senior officer in the absence of a supervisor) will notify the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Dispatch of any snow and/or ice conditions which the supervisor-senior officer believes may warrant notification of the Public Works Supervisor. The Public Works Supervisor will determine the appropriate action to alleviate the problem. When sufficient snow has accumulated on priority streets during the night and early morning hours to result in notice to the Public Works Supervisor and determination to clear the snow, the Public Works Department will typically begin snow clearance efforts at or near 4:00 am to allow time to clear the priority streets before the heavier morning traffic volume begins.

Priority Streets:

The priority streets (as defined herein) will receive first priority for snow and/or ice plowing, removal and sanding efforts. Low traffic volume residential streets and streets in the flatter residential areas will not receive regular snow and/or ice plowing, removal and sanding.

Airport Plan:

Private contractors are used to provide plowing services after heavier snow storms at the Winnemucca Municipal Airport. The main taxiways, apron areas and runways are the top snow removal priorities and the hangar areas are plowed when time allows.

Elderly/Medically Challenged Citizen Assistance:

The City does not normally provide driveway/sidewalk snow clearing services for private citizens. There are times, however, that City Public Works Department personnel will provide driveway/sidewalk snow clearing for the elderly or medically challenged citizens on regular workdays after City streets have been plowed and/or sanded. In addition, the Nevada Division of Forestry (Honor Camp) crews occasionally provide driveway/sidewalk snow clearing services for eligible persons.

Only seniors living in the City that are over 65 years old (or disabled persons) that do not have a relative (child, grandchild, cousin, nephew ... 15 to 65 years old) living in the Winnemucca area are eligible for the City snow clearing assistance list.

Eligible persons are required to complete a snow clearing assistance application and to update it annually. Applications are available at City Hall, the City web-site and the Senior Center. The Senior Center is responsible for updating the snow clearance list for the City and NDF each year. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1480 LAY STREET. The Senior Center phone number is 623-6211.

How Can the Public Help:

- 1) Civic and volunteer groups can provide assistance with driveway and sidewalk clearing for City residents that need help.
- 2) Park vehicles, trailers and recreational vehicles off the street whenever snowy conditions are predicted.
- 3) Make sure tools and implements are in good condition and try to shovel when the snow is fresh.
- 4) Shovel snow to a landscaped area if possible to avoid drainage problems caused by piling snow in the gutter.
- 5) Shovel as much snow as possible to the right-hand side of the driveway (when facing the street) so that the snowplow will not push it back into the driveway, or shovel after the snow plow clears the street.
- 6) Report problems such as blocked drains and icy intersections (see numbers listed above).

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) **How many miles of streets are in the City?**
Answer: 58.5 miles.
- 2) **When does plowing and/or sanding begin?**
Answer: The City typically begins plowing when there is a minimum snow depth of 2-inches, and sanding ordinarily takes place when slick or icy conditions exist. The City endeavors to have the priority streets cleared and/or sanded prior to high volume traffic periods, which typically means the plowing and sanding efforts begin at 4:00 am to allow time to clear and/or sand priority streets by 7:00 am.
- 3) **Which streets are plowed first?**
Answer: The major collector streets are cleared first, followed by the streets adjacent to schools and medical facilities, then the downtown business district and intersections that have experienced icing problems in the past and, finally, steep residential streets. Flat residential streets with relatively low traffic volumes will not be cleared or sanded on a regular basis.

4) **How is ice dealt with on streets?**

Answer: When snow or ice begins to accumulate, a sand and salt mixture is spread on the priority streets. The use of rock salt (sodium chloride) is the most efficient and cost-effective method of ice control for small amounts of winter precipitation, but it is largely ineffective for deep snow conditions. Residential streets are not typically salted because without adequate traffic volume salt application is ineffective, unless the salt mixture ratio is greatly increased, which is detrimental to both the street and vehicles.

5) **Who clears sidewalks and driveways?**

Answer: Property owners and business and residential occupants are responsible to clear snow from the sidewalks and driveways serving their businesses and residences. The City and Honor Camp sometimes offer assistance with driveway and sidewalk clearing for senior residents and medically challenged residents. The City clears the sidewalks and driveways serving City-owned buildings and the sidewalks in the downtown Bridge Street business district.

6) **Who clears other property?**

Answer: Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from commercial parking lots and around commercial buildings. The City clears snow from municipal parking lots and around City buildings.

7) **Where is the cleared snow placed?**

Answer: The City urges property owners and occupants to keep their sidewalks clear and to shovel the snow onto their property instead of into the street, if possible. When possible, City crews try to avoid piling of snow in front of driveways. To avoid having to double shovel, residents should, if possible, wait until after the street has been plowed to clear their driveway. **Pushing and storing snow on City streets is prohibited.**

8) **What pro-active measures does the City take in regard to snow removal?**

Answer: The City regularly checks the internet for weather advisories. Sanders are filled and the plows and sanders are kept fueled and ready. Public Works Department employees review and, if necessary, update the snow and ice control plan each fall with the Public Works Supervisor.