

Snow and Ice Control

Living in West Richland, we all know how unpredictable our winter weather can be. Our winters can vary from little to no annual snow accumulation to extreme winters with more than fifty-inches of snow. Storm events of freezing fog and rain along with wind driven snow drifts can also vary year to year.

With a population over 12,000 residents and over 138 lane miles of roadways, the City continues to strive to provide an acceptable level of snow and ice control. Our City's fleet consists of three dump trucks and a one-ton pickup truck, each with a snow plow and sander, and a liquid deicer vehicle. Annually by October 31st, the City's fleet is readied for dealing with winter storm events. The Street Maintenance Division has one full-time employee and up to twelve other trained employees from the City's other maintenance divisions available that can operate in split shifts during serve winter storm events for around-the-clock snow removal operations.

The City relies on information such as wind, temperature, humidity, current and projected snow accumulation and monitors several different weather forecasts to determine the equipment and or methods to be utilized for each winter storm event. When the weather forecasts indicate a high probability of a snow storm event or icy conditions may develop, the Street Maintenance Division is mobilized to apply liquid anti-icing chemicals to the City's arterial streets, collector streets and steep hill streets. Depending on the amount of accumulation and recurrence of winter storm events, the Streets Operations Supervisor will determine if and when plowing and sanding equipment will be called out in accordance with the following priorities:

Priority 1 - Steep Hill Streets (Bombing Range Road, Collins Road, S. 45th Ave, Mazzard Ave, and Candy Mountain Ave).

Priority 2 - Main Arterial Streets

Priority 3 - Collector Streets and School Zones

Priority 4 - Residential Streets

During severe or prolonged snow storm events, the Street Maintenance Division may have to plow Priority 1 and 2 streets numerous times before moving onto lower priority streets; your patience is appreciated. On a few occasions, the roadway conditions have become so serve that the Police Department has had to

close the hill section of Bombing Range Road (between Everett and Paradise Way). If this occurs, please utilize Paradise Way, Belmont Blvd, and Keene Road to access Van Giesen.

During minor snow storm events (less than 3 inches of accumulation) when temperatures are predicted to rise well above freezing, Priority 4 residential streets are typically not plowed. When residential streets are plowed, it is inevitable that driveways and sidewalks will be blocked. We're sorry for this inconvenience, but please be understanding that it can not be avoided.

Residents also have responsibilities during a winter storm event. Residents are responsible for maintaining their sidewalks and driveways adjacent to their property. When residents fail to clear their sidewalks, the result can be a treacherous ice patch. Please do your part in protecting pedestrians from possible injury.

Many people have asked, "How can the Public help"? I offer the following:

- 1) If possible delay your travels; this allows the Street Division time to plow and sand the roadways without having to deal with traffic and pedestrians.
- 2) Please do not pull out in front of or tailgate the snow plow equipment. The equipment does not stop quickly; it is recommended that you stay more than 150 feet away from a snow plow.
- 3) Please do not attempt to drive down S. 45th Ave or Collins Road while the City is plowing up these hills. For safety reasons, the plows are not able to plow when vehicles continue to slide down these hills; please stop on the side streets and allow the snow plow to plow up the hill before proceeding.
- 4) If possible, please park your vehicles in your driveway when storm events are forecasted. This is especially important in cul-de-sacs. If any vehicles are parked on the street at the end of a cul-de-sac, it makes it nearly impossible for the snow plows to turn-around. Frequently the City crews are not able to plow cul-de-sac because of vehicles parked on the street.
- 5) Please do not pile snow around or on fire hydrants. The fire hydrant should be visible from the street fifty feet in either direction along with a clear area of three feet around the hydrant.
- 6) Please feel free to contact the City to report slick roadways and or intersections. The 24/7 phone number is 967-5434. The information you provide will be forwarded onto the Street Division.