

## **Snow & Ice Control**

Public safety is the first priority during snow and ice control on the city's 90 miles of streets.

The city's policy is to ensure roadways are maintained in such a manner as to minimize economic loss to the community, prevent or reduce accident or injury, and provide safe access for emergencies by Fire, Police and Ambulance services.

The implementation of plowing and salting are governed by weather conditions and by priority assigned to individual City thoroughfares. In the event of a snowfall, salt is generally applied for snowfalls of 2 inches or less. Plowing is initiated after accumulations of 2 inches.

The size of the operation is based on the severity of the storm. We may use only one or two trucks to handle intermittent salting of isolated slippery spots but a full scale plowing for a major storm will use up to up to 22 pieces of equipment depending on available manpower. Snow and ice control is a 24 hour a day 7 day a week operation.

Highest priorities are assigned to main thoroughfares i.e. East and West Avenues. Next in order of priority are collector streets, those connecting main roads, i.e. Overdale Drive, school zones and designated hills and curves. Finally residential streets can be plowed and or salted after higher priority roads are cleared and remain clear.

When a major storm comes, a general plowing is called. It may take 12 to 16 hours to complete after the storm ends. After the initial plowing, there's more work to do. We clear snow islands left by parked cars, touch up intersections and widen passages on residential streets. Cleanup goes on for several days after the storm.

Plows have to make four to six passes on a street to clear it curb to curb. It is best for residents to wait, if possible, until we've finished plowing before shoveling out your driveway approach. We cannot prevent snow from being deposited in driveway approaches during plowing operations but it can be minimized if the operator doesn't have to decrease his speed for pedestrians or parked vehicles.

Despite the high level of service provided, no guarantee can be given that the roads will be completely clear of snow and ice.

It takes time for salt to become effective after roads are salted. Salt begins to lose its effectiveness at temperatures below 22° F. In severe cold weather below 18° F even salt will not prevent roads from icing up.

Rush hour snowfalls and sustained heavy storms also increase the time needed to complete operations. Heavy traffic blocks the snow removal equipment and sustained heavy snows require that our equipment concentrate efforts only on main thoroughfares.

### **In extreme conditions ask yourself?**

- Is your journey essential?
- Have you checked the weather forecast and road conditions and carefully considered the advice given?
- Have you a full fuel tank?
- Does anyone know where you are going and when you hope to arrive?
- Would taking warm clothing, hot drinks, food, shovel and traction material be a wise precaution?

## **Related City Ordinances**

### **351.25 SNOW EMERGENCIES**

- a. Definition of Snow Emergency. Whenever, during any period of time prior to, during, and after snow falls in the City of Tallmadge to a depth of two inches or more, a snow emergency is declared to exist in that such a heavy snow fall constitutes a serious public hazard. During such times, the parking of vehicles upon public streets within the City may hinder, delay or obstruct the safe flow of traffic and emergency vehicles and the cleaning, clearing and making safe of all public streets of this City.
- b. Determination of Snow Emergency. A snow emergency shall commence when two inches or more of snow falls in the City or an emergency is declared by the Safety Director. Such snow emergency shall continue in effect until the Safety Director terminates the emergency.
- c. Announcement of Parking Ban. Whenever a snow emergency is in effect, or is to be in effect, the Safety Director shall request the cooperation of the local radio and television stations and newspapers to announce the snow emergency at the earliest time possible.
- d. No Parking on Public Streets During Snow Emergency. During a snow emergency, no person shall park, or cause to be parked, or permit to be parked, or permit to remain parked, or abandon or leave unattended, any vehicle of any kind or description upon the public streets of Tallmadge. However, vehicles may be parked for a period of not longer than three minutes for the loading or unloading of passengers or thirty minutes for loading or unloading of property, provided that no other ordinance restricting parking as to place or time is violated thereby.
- e. Prohibited Parking. Nothing contained in this ordinance shall be construed to permit parking at any time or place where it is prohibited by any other ordinance of this City.
- f. Removal of Motor Vehicle.
  1. The Safety Director, Police Chief or any Tallmadge Police Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to provide for the removal of any vehicle parked on any public street in the City during a period of snow emergency. Such vehicles shall be transported to a garage, impounding area, or other site deemed proper by the officer directing such transport.
  2. At such time as the name and address of the owner of the transported vehicle is ascertained, and as soon as practicable, the Police Department will notify the owner by telephone, or mail or by personal notice of the fact of such removal, and the reason therefore, and the place to which such motor vehicle has been removed.
  3. Any costs incurred by such removal and storage shall be borne by the owner of the vehicle, and such costs shall be in addition to any fines or penalties which may be imposed on the owner of the vehicle.

### **521.06 DUTY TO KEEP SIDEWALKS IN REPAIR AND CLEAN**

- a. No owner or occupant of abutting lands shall fail to keep the sidewalks, curbs or gutters in repair and free from snow, ice or any nuisance.

### **909.01 SNOW REMOVAL AND SIDEWALK REPAIR**

- a. No owner or occupant of abutting lands shall fail to keep the sidewalks, curbs or gutters in repair and free from ice, snow or any nuisance.
- b. No person shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow on the sidewalks, streets or gutters within the City.
- c. No person shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow in such a manner as to obstruct fire hydrants or street signs or traffic control devices.
- d. No person shall deposit, or cause to be deposited snow on the property of another without the consent of the owner or occupant of such other property.