



# Snow Response Information

Transportation Division

## Citizen Snow Response

City resources are stretched to capacity during winter storm events. Citizens are required to help in priority order:

- First priority: sand and/or shovel sidewalks adjacent to their homes or businesses. Safe passage should be cleared within the first two hours of daylight each day. Citizens are asked to pile shoveled snow on private property, not in the street.
- Second priority: help a neighbor clear the sidewalk in front of their home. Snow that has accumulated on cars that are parked on city streets should be removed so that City plow operators will see the parked car

If you need help with meeting the snow removal requirements, call a contractor or contact a volunteer organization.

## City Snow Response Plan

The purpose of the Snow Response Plan is to provide for the safe flow of traffic and protection of property during winter storm events, while staying within available financial and labor resources.

The plan calls for sanding or deicing to begin when snow accumulation causes slippery streets. Snow plowing begins when the snow depth reaches six inches or more in the streets.

Work by City crews will proceed in priority order if plowing is needed:

- First priority: major arterials, highest traffic volume streets, and emergency routes.
- Second priority: minor arterials and major collectors, streets that connect neighborhoods to the major arterials and streets having grades in excess of 5%.
- Third priority: minor collectors and local streets. Restoration of parking in the Downtown Area.

## Snow Removal on Sidewalks

Snow removal on driveways, wheelchair ramps and sidewalks is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge of adjacent property, in accordance with The Dalles Municipal Code 5.04.080.

City crews will remove snow from designated sidewalks as listed in the Snow Response Plan.

## Frequently Asked Snow Response Questions

### ***Why are snowplows seen driving with their plows up?***

- The plows may be traveling to a priority location, may need to be refilled with fuel or deicer, or may be in need of repair.

### ***Why wasn't snow plowed down to the street surface?***

- When freezing rain is predicted, crews are directed to leave some snow on the road to provide a safer surface. Ice on snow gives better traction than ice on pavement.

### ***Why isn't snow plowed to the center of the street?***

- Most of our streets are not wide enough for snow to be plowed to the center. For one way streets, such as Second and Third Streets downtown, a center pile of snow impedes changing lanes except at intersections.

### **Please use only pet-friendly, child-safe, salt-free deicer on sidewalks**

Studies show that rock salt and magnesium chloride will damage cement surfaces. Calcium chloride performs well as a deicer and is comparatively less harmful to concrete surfaces and the environment. Remember, melt water is not treated and runs directly into local creeks and rivers.

### ***Why isn't snow hauled away from the downtown area?***

- The City doesn't have enough resources, in equipment and employees, to haul snow; particularly when the crews are still clearing streets on an ongoing basis and uncovering storm water catch basins.

### ***Why can't the plows be lifted at each driveway to avoid blocking them?***

- Lifting the plow blade at each driveway would create a series of berms across the street, making driving more difficult.

### ***Why doesn't the City use a large scale snow blower?***

- While a blower works well in rural areas, it would not be appropriate in town where the snow would be blown into sidewalks and against buildings.

## School Bus Routes

More than half of school bus routes will be plowed during first priority snow removal activities. When the storm ends and first priority snow removal activities are complete, a high priority will be assigned to school bus routes located on minor arterials and major collectors during second priority snow removal activities when school is in session.

To view the Winter Weather Response Plan visit the City website at [thedalles.org/transportation](http://thedalles.org/transportation) or call Public Works office at (541) 296-5401.