



City of West Burlington Public Works Department Snow and Ice Control Policy

(Adopted by West Burlington City Council 11/5/2008)

The purpose of this Resolution is to establish a policy with regard to the removal of snow and ice and placing sand, salt or abrasive material on City streets during winter weather conditions. This policy and the level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service as provided in the Street and Public Works budget. This policy supersedes all previous written and unwritten policies regarding the removal of snow and ice and the placing of abrasives on City streets.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

The removal of snow and ice and placing of sand, salt or other abrasive material on City streets during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of West Burlington. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, intersections or other locations of particular topography or traffic features.

The City's existing storm removal equipment will be utilized to implement this policy.

The entire width of the portion of the street or road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice, or frost. Snow cleared from the roadway shall be placed on or adjacent to the shoulder, ditch or right-of-way, except that during snow removal operations, snow may be temporarily stored on a portion of the traveled way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion of the road to the extent that the motorists' sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in the corners and may result in piles of unequal height and sight distance reductions. The line of sight, sight distances or visibility in these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired, and persons traveling on City streets should drive with caution. The City shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others.

Motorists must operate their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution, especially with respect to the surface of the roadway and the reduced or impaired visibility. Motorists are advised to reduce their speed. No additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed warning motorists of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, single lane conditions or that the road surface is slick or slippery.

Snow removal operations undertaken by the City on shared portions of roadways or those roadways entirely within Des Moines County and/or The City of Burlington, but maintained by the City under a formal or informal agreement with Des Moines County and/or The City of Burlington, will be maintained the same as City streets and roads as described above.

SEQUENCE OF SERVICE

The Public Works Director or designee shall select the sequence by which streets and roads will be cleared in accordance with this snow removal policy and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity and additional snow or snowstorms require the removal of snow equipment from the roadway. Considerations used by the Public Works Director or designee in making this decision would be such things as hazardous visibility, lack of progress in snow removal, additional attention needed for priority streets or routes, safety concerns for the snowplow operators. The judgment of the Public Works Director shall prevail.

The initial effort will be to get all routes open as soon as possible. After travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried out during normal working hours.

Priority of Streets:

1. Major Collector Streets (Gear Ave., Agency, Mt. Pleasant, Division)
2. Minor Collector Streets (Huston, Van Weiss, Broadway, Washington Rd., Beaverdale Rd.)
3. Local Streets (Residential areas)
4. Alleys

The truck-mounted snowplows and spreaders will normally operate during daylight hours or slightly before or after daylight, Monday through Friday. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, the normal level of service will be implemented if conditions warrant. Only in cases of emergency or extreme snow or ice conditions will snowplows and sanders operate between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

It is not the policy of the City to provide “dry” pavement conditions.

After streets have been plowed as provided in this policy, intersections, hills and curves may have sand, salt or other abrasive material placed on them if, in the professional judgment of the Public Works Director, it is warranted.

Snowplows and sanders will normally begin operation after an accumulation of two inches (2”) of snow accumulates on the road surface or when, in the Public Works Director’s professional judgment, it is warranted.

Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited on private streets, drives or sidewalks. The City will not clear snow away from private streets, drives or sidewalks. Snow from private streets, drives or sidewalks shall not be deposited on City streets.

LIMITATION OF SERVICE

The policy and level of service provided for in this policy shall not include the performance of the following services:

Sanding, salting or placing other abrasives upon roadways that are slick, slippery and/or dangerous due to the formation of frost.

Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, single lane road conditions or that the road surface is slick, slippery or indicating the advised speed of travel.

MISCELLANEOUS

The City will not pay for damaged mailboxes, unless actual contact is made by the snow removal equipment. Residents should mark their mailboxes in drift prone areas to help City workers avoid them. Claims for mailboxes are to be submitted to the City within 72 hours to be considered for replacement.

Homeowners are responsible for clearing any snow that may accumulate around their mailbox in order to assure mail delivery.

Homeowners with fire hydrants abutting their property are responsible for keeping it clear in case of fire.

EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

The sequence of service may be suspended during “emergency” conditions. The City will attempt to respond to an emergency condition where a blocked or impassable street or road is involved.

An “emergency” condition exists where due to weather conditions loss of life is possible, where serious injury has occurred or is possible, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. Reports of such emergency shall be made through the West Burlington Police Department. Upon the determination of the existence of an emergency condition, the West Burlington Police Department shall notify the Public Works Director or designee.

The provisions of this policy shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements a state disaster plan or the Mayor, by proclamation, declares an emergency under his authority by State Code.