

## POLICY IV.I SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

### A. GENERAL

The City of Bonners Ferry has adopted the following snow removal policy to serve as a guide for city operations and to inform roadway users and property owners of the process by which snow removal situations will be addressed:

Due to conditions beyond anyone's control--e.g., uneven road surfaces, cars driving on new snow before plows arrive, etc.-the city cannot always assure a completely bare roadway surface. Nonetheless, the safety of the traveling public is the paramount concern of the City. Our goal is to financially have all city roadways passable by plowing, de-icing, or sanding within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped. Could be up to 3 days after snow event has ended.

### B. WHEN SNOW PLOWS WILL BE DISPATCHED

1. The City will not usually dispatch snowplows until after a snowfall has stopped, Or the next work day. It is simply not economical to continuously plow each street, and there are times when it is too hazardous to the snowplow drivers to be plowing. However, the Street Department Superintendent will make exceptions if the snowfall appears to be heavy and sustained.
2. If the snow stops falling during regular working hours, plows and/or sanders may be dispatched if there is sufficient snow at that time, and sufficient hours left in the work day. If snowfall stops during the night or early morning hours, plows will be dispatched at an early morning hour. Weekend plowing will be handled on a case by case basis and will be handled in a similar fashion as finances allow.

### C. THE SNOW PLOW ROUTES AND PARKING ALONG THOSE ROUTES

1. Emergency Snow Routes- The highest priority is the identified accesses to critical facilities and emergency services.
2. Commercial Access Routes - These are supplemental to the emergency routes and provide access to major business centers.
  - a) For both of these route systems, upon an accumulation of 6 inches of snow and continuing accumulation, at the discretion of the Street Superintendent, snow plows will plow the snow from the center of the roadway to the curb line or roadway shoulder where it will be stored.
3. Downtown Business Routes - Upon an accumulation of three to 6 inches of snow, at the discretion of the Street Superintendent, snow plows will plow the snow

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Approved by City Council 19 Feb. 2008

Revised Sep 2009

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from the curb lines to the center of the roadway from where it will be removed and hauled away.

- a) After snow has been plowed from the curb lines, depositing snow from sidewalks onto the roadway or alley is prohibited. Depositing snow from parking areas and alleyways onto the street is prohibited at all times.
  - b) Normally the plowing and removal will occur simultaneously. However, certain conditions may cause the piled snow to remain in the center of the road for a period time.
  - c) Parking is prohibited in the Downtown Business Routes until the snow has been plowed and removed from the curb lines.
4. Residential Streets - Upon an accumulation 6 inches of snow and continuing accumulation, at the discretion of the Street Superintendent, snowplows will plow ALL residential streets. (Residential streets are defined as all roadways not classified as "emergency snow routes," "downtown business routes" or "commercial access routes.").
- a) Vehicles left on streets during parking prohibitions are subject to removal (towing) by the Bonners Ferry Police Department.
5. Alleys –The City will plow alleys when they can be plowed without undue risk of damage to adjacent private property. Due to the limited width of many of the City’s alleys and the structures built up to the edge of the right-of-way there is limited room for snow storage. The Street Superintendent will determine when it is viable to plow an alley.

#### **D. THE USE OF DE-ICING AND TRACTION AGENTS**

1. The EPA's and the City's concern for air pollution limit our use of sand. Although sand works great on snow and ice, after the snow season passes, cars and trucks kick sand residue into our air. Therefore the City minimizes the use of sand.
2. A chemical de-icing agents, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, or salt brine, naturally occurring minerals, are used on selected roadways to control the formation of ice.
3. The City limits use of de-icing and traction agents to City rights-of-ways and is not responsible for private property or other governmental institutions without other formal agreements. However, at the discretion of the Mayor, the City will sand other governmental institutions pedestrian and traffic areas when there is an unexpected danger to life and safety.

#### **E. PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CITY RESPONSIBILITY**

1. It is the City’s practice to distributes the plowed snow equally on both sides of the streets to balance the impacted amongst property owners.
2. Depositing snow on public roadways

- a) City residents are reminded that it is unlawful and dangerous to deposit snow upon public roadways. Piles of snow left on or near the roadway can freeze into a solid mass, creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. The property owner can be held liable for collisions and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway.
3. Mailboxes and other personal property on public rights-of-ways
  - a) Mailboxes damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes that were properly located and installed in accordance with City of Bonners Ferry and United States Postal Service standards, and which were damaged by actual contact with City equipment, will be considered for repair at City expense.
4. Assistance to stranded motorists
  - a) City personnel may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement or emergency personnel. City employees will not attempt to remove vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.
5. Driveways
  - a) The City does not have adequate personnel or equipment to make special provisions for driveways. It is the property owner's responsibility to clear their driveways after the streets have been plowed.

**F. COMMUNICATING WITH THE CITY ABOUT SNOW REMOVAL CONDITIONS/ PROBLEMS**

1. Questions or concerns regarding snow removal operations may be directed to the Street Department Superintendent at 267-4383 between 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or contact the front desk at City Hall at 267-3105 between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2. Snow removal is a partnership between residents and the City. Part of everyone's job is to communicate their questions and concerns.