

City of Lewiston, Minnesota Snowplowing Policy

1. Introduction

The city of Lewiston, Minnesota, finds that it is in the best interest of the residents of the city to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The city will attempt to provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The city will use city employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service. This policy does not relieve the operator of private vehicles, pedestrians, property owners, residents and all others that may be using public streets, of their responsibility to act in a reasonable, prudent and cautious manner, given the prevailing street conditions.

2. When Will the City Start Snow or Ice Control Operations?

The Public Works Director will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Snow accumulation of two (2) inches or more;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, snowplowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than two (2) inches.

3. Snow Emergency

A Snow Emergency may be declared at the discretion of the Public Works Director to allow City crews to plow the full width of the streets. Upon declaration of a Snow Emergency, vehicles must be removed from the City streets. Snow Emergencies take effect from the time determined by the Director. Any vehicle parked in violation of parking restrictions will be removed and impounded. Notice will be made to the City cable channel, the City Facebook pages, and KTTC-TV weather information.

4. Snow Removal

The Public Works Director will determine if and when snow will be removed from the area by truck. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the boulevard for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

5. Priorities and Schedule of Streets to be Plowed

The city has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume and importance to the welfare of the community. Those streets classified “First Priority” will be plowed first. These are high volume routes, which provide access for emergency fire, police, ambulance and city services. The second priority streets are those arterial and collector streets. The third priority streets are the commercial streets. The fourth priority streets are the residential streets. The fifth priority areas are cul-de-sacs and parking lots. (See Priority List Attached).

During significant and severe storms, the city must be prepared to move personnel and equipment to maintain higher priority routes first. In fulfilling the need to have all streets safe and passable, when resources are limited, plowing of all other streets may be stopped at any time so resources can be shifted to higher priority routes.

Unforeseeable circumstances may cause delays in completing assigned plow routes. Such circumstances may include weather conditions that endanger the safety of snowplow operators and/or safe and effective operation of equipment, commuter traffic, disabled vehicles, poor visibility conditions, parked cars along streets, assistance to emergency response vehicles, equipment breakdown, and personnel shortages.

6. Work Schedule for Snowplow Operators

Snowplow operators will be expected to work their assigned shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes have to work longer shifts, but will be paid overtime for hours in excess of 40 per week. However, because of budget and safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a twelve-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. While work breaks are not guaranteed, generally operators will take breaks in accordance with city policy, provided the breaks do not interfere with city services or operations. In addition, operators will be allowed sufficient time to eat a meal during any shift which is eight or more hours. After a twelve-hour shift, the operators will be replaced if additional qualified personnel are available.

7. Traffic Regulations

The city recognizes that snowplow operators are exempt from traffic regulations set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169 while actually engaged in work on streets, except for regulations related to driving while impaired and the safety of school children. Pursuant to this authority, snowplow operators engaged in snow removal or ice control on city streets have discretion to disregard traffic laws set forth in Chapter 169, except for laws relating to impaired driving and school children safety, when in their judgment, it is safe to disregard such laws. The privileges granted herein to operators of snow removal and ice control vehicles shall apply only if the vehicle is equipped with one lighted lamp displaying a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light placed in such a position on the vehicle as to be visible throughout an arc of 360 degrees.

8. **Weather Conditions**

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of snowplow operators and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, and limited visibility.

9. **Use of Sand, Salt, and Other Chemicals**

The city will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The city is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

10. **Sidewalks**

The city will maintain some of the sidewalks in the city. The list of those sidewalks is attached. As there are a limited number of personnel available, the city will only maintain these sidewalks after the streets have been plowed. It is the responsibility of the resident and/or property owner to remove all accumulated snow from all other sidewalks along public streets adjoining their property. This includes any snow plowed from public streets onto the sidewalk.

11. **Mailboxes**

Damage to a mailbox is a risk that snowplow operators face during their winter plowing requirements. The city will conduct a review of each mailbox damage claim to determine whether the city has any legal responsibility for the damage and, if so, to replace or provide reimbursement for the mailbox. If the city, in its discretion, determines that reimbursement or replacement is appropriate, the city may:

- 1) At the mailbox owner's request, replace the mailbox with a standard size, non-decorative metal mailbox and replace the support post as necessary with a 4" x 4", decay resistance wood support post, both which will be installed by the city;
- 2) Provide reimbursement in a reasonable amount for the mailbox and support posts that meet the city's ordinance standards, as well as state and federal requirements for mailbox size, support and placement.

12. **Complaint Procedure**

Formal complaints require the completion of a Citizen Complaint Form, available at City Hall. Calls requiring service will be transferred to the Public Works Director for scheduling. Emergency complaints will be handled in an expeditious manner as resources are available.

13. **Deviation from Policy**

The Public Works Director may deviate from this policy when in his or her judgment it is in the best interest of the city or is necessary because of budget needs or other circumstances. Changes in priorities (lasting more than 4 hours) will be documented as to what caused such actions, why the change was necessary, and for how long the change is to be in effect. Those city employees and/or contractors affected will be notified immediately by radio or cell phone of such changes with all communications logged. Information logged will include the time and date of the communication, name of employee contacted, and how they were contacted. Any changes of priorities lasting more than 24 hours should be made in a written

record and the public should be informed of such changes through normal methods used by the city for emergency notifications.

14. Review and Modification of Policy

The Public Works Director shall keep on file all comments and complaints received regarding this policy. The policy will be reviewed periodically. Any review will consider comments and complaints since the last review and any other factors affecting the policy or its implementation.

SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES

PRIORITY: Fire Hall and Ambulance, and City Hall

FIRST PRIORITY: Arterial and collector streets:

Fremont Street (South Fremont is Cty Rd)
North Fremont Street
Rice Street
East Main Street (From Rice St to CTY 25 is Cty Rd)
West Main Street
Deborah Drive
Williams Street (Bus Route)
(some) alley-ways

SECOND PRIORITY: Commercial Streets:

Service Drive-Dollar General
Harrison Street
1st Avenue North
Wilson Street
Country Side Circle

THIRD PRIORITY: Residential Streets

Cedar Lane
Meadows Drive
Circle Court
First Street
Second Street
Country Club Drive
Benson Drive North

Benson Drive South Park Drive

Nicholas Drive Linden Street

Harrison Street

Benicke Street

North Street

East Street

Lincoln Street

Thompson Street

Wilson Street-residential section

FOURTH PRIORITY: cul-de-sacs, parking lots

FIFTH PRIORITY: sidewalks