

CITY OF NEW PRAGUE SNOWPLOWING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The City of New Prague believes that it is in the best interest of the residents for 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 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.

2. WHEN WILL CITY START SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS.

The Public Works Director or the Maintenance Supervisor will decide when to begin snow and ice control operations. Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Snow accumulation;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel;
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

3. HOW SNOW WILL BE PLOWED.

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go onto the boulevard area of the street. In times of extreme snowfall, streets will not always be able to be completely cleared of snow.

4. PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AND MAILBOXES.

Public right-of-way is obtained so that the City can locate and maintain public improvements with a minimum amount of additional cost and disruption to the general public. The City will not make restoration to private improvements located in the public right-of-way as a result of snowplow operations or other normal maintenance activities.

The City will repair mailboxes when they are hit and knocked down by the snowplow itself. Mailboxes, which have been pushed over by the weight of the snow, will not be repaired. Mailboxes that are placed closer than 12" from the front of the curb will not be eligible for replacement or repair by the City.

5. SNOW REMOVAL.

The Public Works Director or the Maintenance Supervisor will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. 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.

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6. WORK SCHEDULE FOR SNOWPLOW OPERATORS.

Snowplow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes have to work in excess of eight-hour shifts. However, because of budget and safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a twelve-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. Operators will take a fifteen-minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after four hours. After a twelve-hour day, the operators will be replaced if additional qualified personnel are available.

7. WEATHER CONDITIONS.

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

8. 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.

9. SIDEWALKS.

The City will maintain a limited number of the sidewalks in the city. The list of those sidewalks includes some sidewalks within the City Park system, sidewalks adjacent to City property in the business district, and the residential sidewalk along County Road #37. As there is a limited number of personnel available, the City will only maintain these sidewalks after the streets have been plowed.