

WEST JORDAN SNOW REMOVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

Priorities

A limited amount of resources and the need to provide the greatest safety and benefit to the traveling public, in the most efficient manner, necessitate that priority be given to certain streets above others. Streets with higher traffic volume have a higher priority for snow removal service. Streets, with lower traffic volume (i.e. subdivisions and cul-de-sacs) have the lowest priority.

City streets have been divided into four priority categories as follows:

Priority One: These are arterial and major collector streets.

Priority Two: These are generally subdivision collector streets.

Priority Three: All other residential through streets, (excluding cul-de-sacs.)

Priority Four: Cul-de-sacs and other dead end streets. The City incurs proportionally more time and costs clearing snow from cul-de-sacs than on typical "uninterrupted" stretches of streets. Because of the high cost-to-benefit ratio, and lower traffic volume, cul-de-sacs and dead end streets have the lowest priority, and will be the last areas addressed. If these streets become snow packed, they will not be cleared to pavement. Residents need to be prepared for winter driving conditions in Utah. Streets in subdivisions will be slick and travelers will need to exercise caution and travel at a lower speed.

Continuation and Completion

During major storms, traffic on low-priority streets usually causes the snow to become packed or icy, before it can be plowed. When snow has become compacted on low-priority streets and plowing is ineffective, the operations will discontinue until regular working hours.

Salting

The City budget does not allow for salting priority three (residential) nor priority four (cul-de-sacs). Once operations have begun, salting will continue until the selected streets have traction restored. Due to limited salt storage and delivery capacities, when more snow is predicted, salting may be halted to conserve salt.

Public Relations

During storms, Public Works will be staffed appropriately to take requests for service, according to storm intensity. Since snowplow operators are already trained to follow priorities set in the policies and procedures, it would be detrimental to the whole to respond to individual requests for service. Telephone operators will log requests for service, and periodically forward these logs to snowplow supervisors for review and action, as resources become available.

Street Closures

If storm conditions warrant, the Police Department, Fire Department or Public Works Director may close streets for safety reasons. When streets are closed, vehicles are not to go around barricades. This could cause harm to people or property. We are aware this may cause an inconvenience to the traveling public. However, due to storms which are of such a magnitude that they are beyond the capabilities of our resources, such closures may be required.

Solid Waste Collection

The solid waste collection contractor will decide whether or not it is safe for their trucks to pick up during or immediately following a storm. If the contractor delays pick up, the service will usually be conducted the following day.

On-street parking

City of West Jordan Municipal Code

7-3-10: Prohibited parking for snow removal

<http://www.wjordan.com/CAttorney.aspx?pgID=3.3.1>

- A. Specified: No person shall park a vehicle or semitrailer upon a street when it is snowing or snow is on the street from November 1 and ending April 30 of the following year.
- B. Obstructing Snow Removal; Impoundment: It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle or semitrailer, or permit a vehicle or semitrailer owned by that person to park in a manner that obstructs snow removal by failing to leave adequate room for passage of plows and other removal equipment. Vehicles and semitrailers so parked are subject to impoundment as detailed in Utah Code Annotated section 41-6a-1408.
- C. Snowbound Vehicles and Semitrailers; Removal: It shall be unlawful for the owner of a vehicle or semitrailer to allow such vehicle or semitrailer to remain standing upon any public street for longer than forty-eight (48) consecutive hours after such vehicle has become snowbound due to snowplows plowing around the vehicle or semitrailer. Such vehicles and semitrailers shall be determined abandoned. Abandoned vehicles and semitrailers shall be subject to removal and impoundment as detailed in Utah Code Annotated section 41-6a-1408. (2009 Code)

Residents can help by removing vehicles, trailers, portable basketball standards, and garbage cans from the street anytime snowplows are out working. Snow removal in inclement weather is challenging on a "clear" road.

It is dangerous and difficult to plow streets clogged with parked vehicles. Some streets, especially cul-de-sacs may not be plowed, if plows cannot safely drive down them. The most helpful thing residents can do to facilitate snow removal is to get their cars off the street, and encourage others to do the same.

Snow Blowing

Blowing, throwing or pushing snow from driveways and walks into the street creates additional work for snowplow operators, and may create a traffic hazard. Some business and residents have pushed large piles of snow onto the street, hoping it would melt quickly. The snow pile is a hazard itself, but the ice created when the melting snow refreezes can create an even more dangerous situation. Throw snow onto landscaped areas in the yard or parking lot.

Cul-de-sacs

There are over 480 cul-de-sacs in West Jordan City. It takes considerably longer to clear snow from cul-de-sacs than other "uninterrupted" stretches of City streets. Because of the low traffic volume and high cost-to-benefit ratio, cul-de-sacs and dead end streets have the lowest priority. Cul-de-sacs will be cleared, but it will likely be several days after a storm ends.

In an effort to become more efficient, crews will, when feasible, use the following standard in plowing snow in cul-de-sacs:

1. One full pass will be made around the perimeter of the cul-de-sac with a snowplow, pushing the snow to the outside of the cul-de-sac and salting the center.
2. As time allows after a heavy snow, the snow will be plowed out of the center of the cul-de-sac and dispersed to the sides of the street.

Sidewalks

West Jordan City property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks along their property clear of snow and ice. The City requires residents to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowstorm. City crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks at City facilities such as the City Hall, Justice Center and Fire Stations. Snow removed from sidewalks and driveways should be placed in the park strip area or on private property and **NOT** in the public roads.

Driveways

Snow moved by a snowplow blade has no place to go but in the road right-of-way, which includes driveways. Many times snowplowing forms snow drifts across driveway approaches, which may create hardships for some residents. However, the City possesses neither the personnel nor equipment to clear the thousands of driveway approaches within the City. Snow removal of the driveway approaches is the resident's responsibility.

Mail Delivery

In most cases, damage occurs during the plowing process because aged posts or improperly mounted boxes are unable to withstand the rigors of the winter plowing season. The City will replace the mailbox and/or post if it is actually struck and damaged by a snowplow. Mailboxes should be installed to withstand heavy or wet snow coming off the end of the plow. The final cleaning adjacent to mailboxes is the responsibility of the property owner. If damage occurs due to snow discharge or snow storage, the City will not be responsible for repairs.

Trails

All paved sections of the City's trail system will be cleared of snow by City crews as time allows. Unpaved areas are left unplowed for various forms of winter recreation. The trails are the last priority and will be cleared after all other roads in the City have been addressed.

Fire Hydrants

There are over 3,000 fire hydrants located throughout West Jordan. During this time of year, we can expect that snow and snow removal activities may cause snow to be piled near fire hydrants and obstruct their access. It is important for residents living and businesses operating near fire hydrants to keep this in mind and take action during their personal snow removal activities. It is recommended that a clear space of 3 feet be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants to permit easy access in emergencies.

What can I do if I am elderly and can't shovel snow from my sidewalk or drive approach?

Whenever possible, when a resident is physically unable to perform snow removal arrangements should be made with a relative, friend or neighbor, for help. If there is an elderly resident who has no other

able bodied adult living with them and they need help with snow removal, please call Services for Seniors at 801-887-1275 to request volunteer help.

Safety tips

- When trucks are plowing snow and spreading salt. Stay back from the vehicle a minimum of 100 feet to avoid problems.
- Plow trucks often have to back up. There are blind spots in the mirrors. For your safety, do not pull up directly behind them. They may not be able to see you.
- When cleaning driveways or parking lots, do not put snow in the street. This can cause problems for other motorists.
- Plow trucks generally push snow to the passenger side of the truck (right side when looking at it from the rear). Never attempt to pass a truck on the right since there can be much more snow on that side of the vehicle.

Streets Plowed by Other Agencies

State highways are plowed by the Utah Department of Transportation. These streets include:

Redwood Road

Bangerter Highway

7000 South from the Jordan River to Redwood Road

9000 South from the Jordan River to Redwood Road

7800 South from Redwood Road to New Bingham Highway

New Bingham Highway from 7800 South to West of U-111

U-111 from New Bingham Highway to the Northern City border

Property Damage Claims

Snowplowing and ice control operations can result in property damage, particularly during blizzard conditions or during nighttime snowplowing. Incidents involving contact between City equipment and private property typically occur within the public street right-of-way, which commonly extends beyond the adjoining sidewalk. The intent of the right-of-way is to provide for snow storage, utilities, sidewalks, and other City uses.

Homeowners are permitted to place some improvements, such as mailboxes, within the right-of-way. In the event of damage to private property during snow removal efforts, the property owner may file a claim with the City's Risk Manager, by calling 801-569-5147. The damage will then be investigated to determine if any damage is the City's responsibility.

The weight of accumulating snow may cause tree limbs to break, or other damage to structures. Such damage is the responsibility of the resident and his/her insurance company.