

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. 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.

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.

Please note, if another storm passes through the area before all streets have been cleared, the process starts over from the beginning with the priority one streets.

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.

Salt Storage

The City has one main salt storage and a smaller, secondary salt storage which have a limited capacity. Salting operations to meet the demands of a major storm, could consume this entire volume. 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 complainants before letting the operators respond. Telephone operators will log requests for service, and periodically forward these logs to snowplow supervisors for review and action.

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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

On-street parking

Current city ordinance prohibits parking on the street from November 1st through April 30th from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Residents can also 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. However, when vehicles are parked along the road, they impede the operation and increase the likelihood of an accident.

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. Please 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.

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 strongly encourages residents to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow storm. City crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks at public facilities such as the Municipal Buildings. Snow removed from sidewalks and driveways should be placed in the park strip area or on private property and **NOT** in the public roads. This practice is dangerous and impedes the City's snow removal efforts.

Driveways

Snow accumulated on the plow 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

Not all paved sections of the City's trail system will be cleared of snow due to insufficient Parks resources. Trails are not salted. Unpaved areas are left unplowed for various forms of winter recreation.

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?

The City does not have the resources to provide snow removal from private sidewalks or drive approaches. Make arrangements 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 Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services at (385) 468-3200

Safety tips

- 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

There are several streets within the City of West Jordan which are state highways. These streets are plowed by the Utah Department of Transportation. These streets are:

- Redwood Road
- Bangerter Highway
- 7000 South from the Jordan River to Redwood Road
- 9000 South from the Jordan River to 5600 W.
- U-111 from New Bingham Highway to the Northern City border
- Mountain View Corridor

Property Damage Claims

Snowplowing and ice control operations can result in property damage, particularly during blizzard conditions or during night-time 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 shall 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 responsibility of the City.

Tree Maintenance and Responsibilities

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.

Please note that as per the city code, "Tree canopies that extend over street travel ways shall be pruned to provide canopy clearance of at least fifteen (15') above street pavement in travel lanes and ten feet (10') above pavement in parking lanes. Trees adjacent to pedestrian walkways shall have a minimum canopy clearance of eight feet (8') above grade. The developer, his successor and/or subsequent owners of a site for which landscape plans were required shall be responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of all landscaping elements. Park strips shall be maintained by the owner of property abutting city easements, rights of way and park strips."