

## **Carson City Snow & Ice Control Program**

Well, it's that time of year again. Yes, the time of year that brings out the snow plows. Carson City receives an average annual snowfall of 22.2 inches, with an average monthly snowfall of 6.78 inches between December and March. The annual snow removal budget is based on these snowfall figures as well as the expected number of street miles to be plowed or sanded. The City's policy recognizes that it would be cost prohibitive to remove all accumulations of snowfall from every street in the city. To do so would substantially and unreasonably increase the annual cost of snow removal operations due to increased equipment requirements and labor costs.

Accordingly, a series of street classification priorities have been established which provide the basis for our operational plan.

**Emergency Snow Routes(Priority One)** Major arterial and collector streets, called Emergency Snow Routes (see map) these streets receive top priority for snow or ice control and are identified by having a red, white, and blue sign with the symbol of a snowflake. These streets are considered to be the minimum network which must be kept open in order to provide a transportation system connecting the hospital, fire stations, sheriff's office, schools, government facilities and major commercial areas with the citizens of the community.

### **Secondary Snow Routes**

(Priority Two) All other arterial and selected collectors which complete the major traffic volume street network (see map). Secondary Snow Routes will receive attention only after the Priority One Emergency Routes have been cleared.

### **Non Essential Snow Routes**

(Priority Three) Any remaining collectors and local streets, including residential will only receive attention during regular work hours after Priority One and Two Routes have been addressed. As much as possible, all Priority One and Two streets will be kept open and maintained at all times which usually requires 24 hour shifts.

### **Snow and Ice Control Program Highlights**

In severe storm conditions with projections of continuing snow accumulations, a SNOW EMERGENCY may be declared by the City Manager. Announcements will be through radio, television and newspaper sources. During a declared SNOW EMERGENCY parking of vehicles along Emergency Snow Routes is prohibited. The Emergency Snow Routes are the Priority One Routes and in most cases are identified with a snow route signs on the streets. Chain and/or snow tire requirements may also be declared during a SNOW EMERGENCY.

### **No Parking Allowed on Emergency Snow Routes**

When a SNOW EMERGENCY is declared, vehicles parked along Emergency Snow Routes will be tagged with a notice requiring them to be moved within one hour. Every effort will be made to notify the owner of the vehicle. If the vehicle is not removed from the Emergency Snow Route within an hour of being tagged, the vehicle may be towed and the owner will be responsible for the costs of towing and impoundment.

Snow plowing, however, is not always necessary. Crews may be dispatched to sand streets in icy conditions, at approaches to traffic control devices, along hills and curve sections, along Emergency Snow Routes and at major approaches to snow routes.

When plowing becomes necessary the snow is generally plowed to the street edges and can cover driveways and sidewalks. This is a situation which cannot be avoided. Plowing the street to the center into a windrow causes other problems such as melting snow running across travel lanes increasing the need for sanding, center windrow's prohibit left turn access into driveway's and alleys and results in dangerous U-turns at intersections, and can cause delays in emergency response. In addition, center windrows generally require removal by loaders and dump trucks which add significant expense to the snow program.

Clearing of driveway approaches and sidewalks is, by code, the responsibility of the property owner. We understand how upsetting it can be to residents who have shoveled their walks and driveways only to have the City come along and cover them up. However, our first priority is to keep the streets clear and open for everyone's safety. With over 16,000 individual properties in the City, we are unfortunately unable to deal with each and every situation.

Here are some tips on shoveling your driveway: We suggest shoveling after the plows have been through the area at least once; we realize this is not always practical. Shovel the snow to the left side facing your home or (driver side) of the driveway. You've seen the plows go by, if you make a big pile at the corner of your driveway or out in the street, the plow naturally hits the pile and pushes it back where it came from. If you have a contractor or someone clearing your driveway or property remember, code restricts persons from depositing snow in the public right-of-way.

Our mission is to maintain emergency access, so, please, if they are working for you direct them to do it right.

Carson City does not maintain a number of routes in the City which are under the jurisdiction of the Nevada Department of Transportation as indicated on the map. Problems along those routes can be addressed by calling N.D.O.T. at 888-7969.

During these winter days, remember to use good judgment when driving (slow down), watch the weather report, stock up on things you need when big storms are predicted, and last and most important, when you can, help your neighbors who may be too elderly or ill to shovel snow. Carson City is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, so show that Carson City community spirit and "pitch" in.

For questions regarding Carson City's Snow and Ice Control Program, call the Street Operations Division at 887-2355 during business hours.