

Snow Emergency

Chillicothe, Ross County Ohio

Designations

Level 1 Snow Emergency: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads are also icy: drive carefully.

Level 2 Snow Emergency: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who believe it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work.

Level 3 Snow Emergency: All roadways are closed to not-emergency personnel. No one else should be out during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel. All employees should contact their employers to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roadways may be subject to arrest.

Snow Removal Policy

Winter storms can cause significant economic impact on the community depending on the intensity and duration of the storm. During winter events, our goal is to minimize economic and environmental impacts on the community and to provide the prudent motorist with a reasonably safe traveling surface.

The Chillicothe snow removal policy is designed to clarify our strategy regarding the Service Department's priorities. In addition to snow removal, the Department of Safety Services is responsible for removing downed trees, replacing damaged stop signs due to accidents, and responding to Police calls for emergency services such as downed power lines and road closures. Water main breaks and other winter issues do not cease when the weather gets bad, in fact, they escalate. Residents are asked to be patient as we work with all City Departments to respond to requests for emergency services. There may be a time when you will need those services as well. **The Director of Safety Services or his designee may alter priorities during the course of an event to accommodate emergency services or when more severe problems or conditions are present in a specific area of the City.**

Snow Removal

The Department of Safety Service is responsible for the removal of snow and ice. The department is currently staffed with 17 employees, 9 are dedicated to our Refuse/trash removal activities. The preparation of snow removal equipment begins in October and continues through the fall until all available equipment is ready for use. The Department monitors all available weather programs for current and forecasted weather conditions. When a major weather event is forecast, department staff is prepared to allow 24 hour coverage.

Our number #1 priority is to clear the most highly traveled roadways and streets to allow emergency travel for fire, emergency medical, and police personnel. The second priority is to clear streets and hills to facilitate traffic moving in and out of the city and to provide safety to our residents that must traverse them. The third priority is to clear residential areas, including courts, cul-de-sacs, dead end streets, and alleys. These are cleared last because they carry the least amount of traffic.

Snow plowing is not productive until snow fall reaches a depth of between 1-2 inches. If accumulations exceed two inches crews will begin plowing as they spread salt/grit. During intense storms, the spreading of salt/grit may be discontinued and crews will plow until such time as snowfall stops. Salt does not generally work when temperatures are below 20 degrees. We are currently investigating the use of other chemical to help pre-treat roads and clear the snow, such as sodium chloride and a brine solution.

PRIORITIES DURING SNOW EVENTS

The following is a list of streets that are a priority during snow and ice events:

Priority 1:

Main Thoroughfares & Bridges: A heavily traveled street or highway. Typically high traffic volume multilane roads with posted speed of 45 MPH

Main, Bridge, Western, Paint, High and Eastern. The State of Ohio usually clears these roads, but if some reason they don't, or if they are delayed, they become critical priorities.

Critical Hills: Safety is a major issue. Must be given special attention and priority to avoid pileups which clog entrances to collector streets and hinder snow removal efforts.

Belleview, Carlisle, University, Applewood, Limestone, Ridge, St. Andrews, Edgewood, Courtland, Sharon, and Shannon Woods.

Priority 2:

Other Collector Streets: Collect and move traffic generated by a neighborhood to a thoroughfare street. Typically 1-2 lane streets within neighborhoods or commercial/business districts that move traffic to a thoroughfare street.

Allen, Piatt, Orange, Buckeye, Plyley's, Water, Watt, Douglas, Walnut, Pawnee, Marietta, Alexander, Second and Seventh. These are in no specific order. School zones must also have priority treatment.

Priority 3:

Residential areas depending upon traffic volume. Generally plowed after snowfall and after priority 1 & priority 2 streets have been treated. If ice or only light snow occurs (less than 2 inches), and plowing is not required, City trucks will spread materials only. Alleys are giving a lesser priority until all residential streets have been treated and plowed.

Parking Limitations

In the City of Chillicothe a snow emergency may be declared by the Mayor any time snowfall reaches a depth of three inches. The Director of Safety Services will ensure contact is made with local media advising that a snow emergency is in effect.

Residents are asked not to park their vehicles in a manner that will impede the snowplow trucks from navigating the streets in order to spread the salt or plow the snow. Streets that are not passable will not be able to have the snow removed. Moving vehicles to the driveway and/or garage greatly aids our efforts to keep streets clear and passable for motorists. It will also reduce the risk your vehicle will be damaged by heavy snow, ice, or another vehicle in these elements.

Time & Patience

It can take a lot of time and effort to clear the streets. The patience of our residents is an added value to the process of quickly clearing streets and neighborhoods. The removal of cars from the street any time there is snow is also extremely helpful.

When clearing a driveway remember that any snow placed at the curb edge should go on the left side of the driveway (facing the property). This will help reduce the accumulation of snow at the end of the driveway when the street is plowed.

PLEASE CLEAR SIDEWALKS IN ADDITION TO DRIVEWAYS.

Keeping sidewalks clear and passable benefits the entire neighborhood. This is for the safety of school children and the benefit of the physically impaired that may be unable to negotiate snow-covered walks. It's also the law.

Chillicothe City Ordinance:

521.06 DUTY TO KEEP SIDEWALKS IN REPAIR AND CLEAN.

(a) No owner or occupant of abutting lands shall fail to keep the sidewalks, curbs or gutters in repair and free from snow, ice or any nuisance. (ORC 723.011)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.