

Huxley Snow Removal Policy

The City of Huxley Street Department is responsible for the removal of snow accumulations on city streets, alleys and publicly owned sidewalks and parking lots. Street maintenance personnel are primarily responsible for snow removal, with utility maintenance personnel assisting as required. Snow removal operations generally begin when snowfall accumulations have exceeded more than one inch in depth.

Emergency Snow Routes are designated major arterials and main interconnectors between major highways and other municipalities which are used for principal emergency, commercial, school and bus access. These routes are posted with signs designating them as “Emergency Snow Routes”. The policy is to provide maximum service on these streets in order to provide emergency personnel and emergency vehicles access to and from the police departments, fire stations and hospitals to respond to emergency events.

The following Huxley emergency snow routes are generally cleared first:

- *Main Avenue
- * Oak Blvd.
- * First Street
- * Timberlane
- * Centennial Drive West of Timberlane to Hwy. 69
- * Centennial West to Ballard Drive
- * Ballard Drive
- * Fifth Street from N. 5th Ave. to Hwy. 69
- * East Fourth Street East of Hwy. 69
- * Campus Drive from Main Ave. to Hwy. 69,
- * N. Fifth Ave. from West First St. to Crestwood
- * Lynwood from N. 5th Avenue to Ballard Drive
- * S. Second Ave from First to Railway

Residential streets and cul-de-sacs are cleared next. The city's goal is to have the emergency snow routes cleared before the morning and evening rush hours and complete plowing of all city streets and cul-de-sacs within 8 to 10 hours. If the snowfall continues after morning rush hour, clean up may be delayed until after the snowfall event has subsided. Under most conditions, the eight-hour goal for completing plowing can be achieved. With snow accumulations greater than six inches, the time it takes to complete the plowing will increase. At times some flexibility is required to this plan due to the amount of snowfall or equipment break down. During snow removal operations we try to keep the snowplows and other snow removal equipment plowing in designated areas assigned to each driver rather than moving from one end of town to the other. Other reasons for flexibility are time of day, school bus schedules and emergency response.

De-icing is provided at all intersections along Highway 69, major intersections and heavily traveled areas on snow routes and is not intended or needed on residential streets except under certain circumstances. In most cases, traffic can maneuver safely on streets with low volumes of traffic, but roads with high volumes of traffic need the extra attention. De-icing generally occurs before 7:00 a.m. prior to rush hour commuters leaving for their respective routes of daily travel. If a significant snowfall has or is occurring, this may be delayed due to the fact that the de-icing material will be covered up by the snow and be carried off during snow removal. It is common for the police department and street personnel to perform “skid tests” at several locations to determine which areas require deicing the most. Rain on clear and/or snow packed roads are

serious problems and can cause severe and dangerous driving conditions. During this occurrence it is difficult to keep de-icing materials on the streets and we advise extra caution during these periods. Please be extra cautious while driving on snow and ice covered streets, good judgment while driving by reducing speeds, increased following distances between vehicles and braking earlier before intersections and turning maneuvers will help reduce accidents that result in property damage and personal injuries.

Please be advised that de-icing will not be applied to newly constructed roads made of concrete for the first year since the de-icing agents will affect the integrity of the surface of the street while the concrete cures. Please use extra caution on these streets.

Street Parking

Please observe the City of Huxley's parking regulations during snow events. Once the police department declares a snow emergency, residents are legally required to move parked cars off the street so larger vehicles, such as plows and emergency vehicles can safely navigate the streets. Don't park your car on any city street after a one-inch snowfall. This not only ensures more effective plowing, but also helps you avoid a citation. Plowing activities could begin any time one or more inches of snow has accumulated and driving conditions become difficult. Depending on conditions, snow accumulations after 10:00 p.m. city crews typically start plowing by 2 am. **Remember** the one-inch guideline applies to any hour of the day, any time of the year and No-Parking will be enforced until snow subsides and streets have been cleared curb to curb.

Sidewalks/Driveways

Sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snowfall. Residents are required to keep their sidewalks in good repair and free of snow, ice, debris and obstructions. Please do not plow or throw snow out into the street - this is dangerous for traffic and delays full cleanup operations. Depositing snow or ice on any public sidewalk, street, bike path, road or highway is not permitted and could result in a citation. The city may also assess the property owner the cost of removing the snow that was placed there by the offending party. Residents are also not permitted to deposit snow removed from their driveways into City streets. When using a snow blower or snow shovel, please deposit the snow in your yard as opposed to in the street. Piles of snow or ice in the street from a residential driveway can create hazardous conditions and liability for accidents. Do not plow snow onto your neighbor's sidewalk or driveway. When you are clearing your walk, imagine what it would be like jogging, a young child walking to school, walking a dog, pushing a stroller or using a wheelchair on that surface. Would you feel safe? Be sure to apply ice-melting agents or sand to stubborn, slippery spots. If you are shoveling or snow-blowing the **entrance to your driveway**, the Streets Department has this **helpful tip**: Wait until the streets are plowed curb to curb before removing the snow at the very end of your driveway. Snow that is being pushed down the street by the snowplow has a tendency to roll off into open spots such as intersections and cleared driveway approaches, so you may actually have less snow to clear in the long run if you wait for the plows to pass.

Frequently Asked Questions About Plowing

When does the city start plowing?

This depends on storm projections. In general, however, ice control begins when icy or slippery conditions make driving difficult. Plowing will begin when the snow stops falling or when one inch or more of snow has fallen to make driving difficult.

How long does it take to complete the plowing?

During average winter conditions, it takes eight to ten hours to complete snow removal operations. Time to clear the streets will increase when snow is wetter and heavier, and snow accumulation continues.

Which streets are plowed first? Does the city always follow the same order for plowing streets?

Emergency snow routes will be done first. Residential streets and cul-de-sacs are cleared next and alleys being cleared last. The city strives to conduct operations consistently from storm to storm. This increases both effectiveness and efficiency.

I saw the plow pass by on a neighboring street, but it didn't come down my street. Why not?

It may be that a neighboring street happens to be a major road through the neighborhood or that operators are simply plowing the streets in the most efficient pattern and your street will be plowed soon. Occasionally, however, primary streets with high volumes of traffic may require ice control or plowing not deemed necessary on residential streets.

Why do you plow so far away from my mailbox?

City crews plow as close to mailboxes as possible without risking damage to the box. Some boxes are mounted to close to the road and need to be installed properly with the box placed four inches behind the curb with a height of 48 inches from the bottom of the box to the road surface. Many times high snow banks cause snow to fall back into the street. This snow gets compacted by postal vehicles making it difficult to clear the entire width of the road in subsequent plowing. Residents are encouraged to clear the area in front of their mailbox after every plowing.

Why does the city prohibit on-street parking? Does it really make a difference?

The average time city crews begin plowing operations is just before 2 a.m., so this is a logical time to require that vehicles be off the streets. Cars parked on the streets present a hazard, because they can be difficult for the plow operators to see during snowstorms. If vehicles are off the street, residents will get more effective plowing and plows will not have to return to remove the snow and ice when vehicles are moved. It allows the plows to clear the full width of the street to allow safer travel for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Mailbox Policy

Is your mailbox designed to stand up to the rigors of the winter plowing season? What happens if plowing activities damages your mailbox? The answer depends on how the damage occurred.

If your mailbox is actually struck by a City snow plow, the city will repair or replace the mailbox, providing it is a standard design that conforms to U.S. Post Office specifications for minimum height and setback. Damage to non-standard mailbox assemblies will be reimbursed \$25.00. Some examples of non-standard mailboxes include: brick planters, mailboxes with custom lettering, custom designing or larger than standard installations.

Mailboxes should be installed and maintained to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. Ensure that the face of your mailbox is 4 inches behind the back of the curb (out of the way of snow plows). If damage occurs due to snow discharge or snow storage, the city will not be responsible for repairs. The City Council approved this mailbox repair policy, essentially formalizing past practice regarding mailbox damaged by snow removal activities.

City staff investigates each complaint. If an inspection shows that the mailbox was hit by a plow or other piece of equipment, a temporary mailbox is installed. In the spring,

repairs are made to conforming installation.

If no signs of impact are evident, the resident is provided information about possible reasons for the problem. These may include inadequate construction or materials, needed maintenance, or other sources of damage.

Tips for Homeowners

In order to avoid problems with your mailbox during the winter season, residents are encouraged to follow these guidelines:

- Make sure your mailbox conforms to postal and city standards. That means the bottom of the box is 48 inches above the street, and the mailbox is mounted so the door, when closed, does not extend beyond the back of the concrete curb.
- In general, avoid installation of paper boxes, flower planters, or other attachments beneath the mailbox. If you do install these items, be sure they are set back at least 10 inches from the front of the mailbox. The city will not be responsible for damage to these items from snow discharge.
- Conduct regular inspections and perform routine maintenance on your mailbox, just as you would for other parts of your property.
- Clear snow away from the mailbox area after each plowing. Snow that remains in front of the mailbox will get compacted by post office vehicles and make subsequent plowing less effective.

A Hydrant Near You

In the event of a fire emergency during the winter, could firefighters find the hydrant near your home? Or does it get buried under a pile of snow? The city encourages residents to clear the hydrant area near their home and keep it clear throughout the winter season. This will ensure hydrants are visible and will greatly speed the response time in case of an emergency. Please don't let your neighborhood hydrant remain "under cover". The fire department and your neighbors will greatly appreciate your efforts. If the amount of snow is excessive and would be very difficult to remove, please contact the city to have the snow removed.

Sod Damage & Sprinkler Systems

Driveway markers can help protect sod from damage. If you want to protect your yard from possible damage from snow plowing, the Public Works Department suggests that you stake out your yard along the curb line with flexible driveway markers. These stakes can be purchased at any local hardware or home improvement store. It is recommended that you buy markers with reflectors so that they can be seen in the dark. By doing this, you will help the plow operators in locating the curb line.

Despite the plow operator's best efforts, sod along the edge of the road occasionally may be damaged during snow removal activities. In general, the city will repair boulevard sod damaged by a snowplow truck. The city will *not* be responsible for damage to underground irrigation systems and landscaping within the City right-of-way.

Tips for Surviving the Winter Plowing Season

A little patience and a cooperative attitude are essential ingredients for getting through the winter plowing season. When we as citizens, plowing contractors, and city crews work together, we can reduce frustrations that sometimes accompany winter snowstorms. There are many things residents can do to minimize plow-related problems for themselves, and to assure that city crews do the most effective job possible.

When the snow and ice come, just follow the *Top 10 Tips* for the winter plow season:

- Observe the city's parking regulations. Don't park your car on any city street after a one-inch snowfall. This not only ensures more effective plowing, but also helps you avoid a citation.
- Residents may find it less frustrating to wait until the plow trucks have completed their street before cleaning the end of their driveway. City plows are designed to discharge snow to the sides of the road and are not capable of skipping driveway areas.
- Residents hiring contractors to plow their driveways should remind the contractor about state and local laws that prohibit pushing or placing snow back into or across the street. Doing so not only creates hazards for drivers, but also makes it difficult for the city to keep the streets clean.
- Residents should clear snow from the mailbox area after each plowing. Snow that remains in front of the mailboxes will get compacted by post office vehicles and make subsequent plowing less effective.
- If trash pickup day coincides with plowing activities, make sure your trash container is well behind the curb or in the driveway so the plow will not hit them.
- Residents who have experienced sod damage in the past may wish to mark their yard line with flexible stakes or lathe. This will help the plow operators avoid future damage.
- Don't allow children to build snow forts and tunnels in the snow banks adjacent to the curb, or to play near the curbs. It can be difficult for the plow operators to see children.
- Keep sled, toys and portable basketball hoops away from the street.
- Residents are encouraged to locate the hydrant near their home and keep snow shoveled away from it. This will ensure that fire hydrants are accessible in case of emergency.

Safety Tips

- **Stay as far away from snow plows and snow removal equipment as possible**
- **Keep children away from snow plows and equipment**
- **Do not attempt to pass a snow plow**
- **Keep children away from areas where snow has been piled by city crews, especially when snow removal operations are in effect**
- **Please be extra cautious while driving on snow and ice covered streets, good judgment while driving by reducing speeds, increased following distances between vehicles and braking earlier before intersections and turning maneuvers will help reduce accidents that result in property damage and personal injuries.**