

**City of Ketchikan
Public Works Department**

Winter Maintenance Information Guide

The City of Ketchikan maintains approximately 43 lane miles of streets and roads throughout the City. In addition, snow and ice are removed from many sidewalks and 1.63 miles of stairways. This notice is being used to help explain the City's winter street maintenance program and its priorities.

Snow Emergency Routes

The City of Ketchikan has established snow emergency routes on most of the arterial streets. A snow emergency may be declared when winter conditions prohibit the safe travel of emergency vehicles on the arterial streets. A map of the Snow Emergency Routes may be found on the City of Ketchikan website at www.city.ketchikan.ak.us. Snow Emergency Routes are marked with the following signs:



Snow Removal, Sanding and Deicing Priorities

Snow fighting and ice treatment is performed on City streets and roads around the clock in the following order of priority:

1. Snow Emergency Routes, School bus routes and arterials.
2. Business district, Borough bus routes, main feeder and collector streets.
3. Steep residential and/or through streets.
4. All other streets.
5. Parking lots.

Please be patient. We will get to your street as soon as possible.

**The State is responsible for Tongass Hwy
Contact Alaska DOT Road Maintenance at 225-2513**

Deicing Chemicals

Spreading aggregate such as sand and chips helps improve traction on ice under certain conditions. During times of rapid ice formation, deicing chemicals must be used. During these periods, we make every effort to use the minimum amount of deicing chemicals to make the roadways safe. In addition to minimizing chemical use, over 80% of the deicing chemicals used are reduced corrosion chemicals such as "Iceslicer" to accelerate melting, urea, or MgCl.

The City is also now using liquid MgCl on the roads.

Snow Berms Across Driveways

The snow-fighter's main objective is to keep our roadways open for the safe passage of traffic. Whenever possible, operators try to minimize the size of berms across driveways. However, the City does not have the resources to remove snow berms. **REMOVAL OF SNOW BERMS IS THE**

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER/RESIDENT.

Sidewalk Snow and Ice Control

As resources are available the Public Works Department removes snow and applies deicers to sidewalks adjacent to City property. In all other areas, adjoining property owners are responsible for removal of snow from sidewalks by noon of the day following a snowfall. Please lend a hand to elderly or disabled neighbors who cannot clear their own sidewalks and steps.

You Can Help!

Winter street and road maintenance is expensive, dangerous and time consuming. There are many ways the public can help make our job more effective.

- Do not allow water to discharge from your property across sidewalks and/or the street. This will prevent ice formation.
- Please do not store boats, trailers or inoperable vehicles on the streets.
- Use salt only to the extent necessary. Never use salt on fresh concrete, less than one year old.
- If you must commute, equip your vehicle with good studded snow tires or chains. Why risk getting stuck or damaging your car. Best of all, relax; leave your car at home. Catch a bus; call a cab or carpool. Every car left at home helps us do our job faster.
- When it starts to snow, park your vehicles off the street. This protects your car from being hit by sand or salt, from becoming plowed in, or being hit by passing vehicles - and best of all, the snowplow has space for curb-to-curb plowing.
- Any obstructions such as driveway ramps, rocks, fences or planters along the roadway edge must be removed for the winter. Not only can they be destroyed by snow removal operations, they can do substantial damage to snow plows. Owners of such obstructions are liable for damage caused to City equipment.
- **Please** place garbage cans at least five feet inside driveways away from the roadway edge. This will help prevent equipment from hitting them or operators having to veer around them and not completely plow the route.
- **Residents who remove snow from their driveways or sidewalks are reminded not to place snow or ice on any public street, sidewalk or parking space in a manner that impedes vehicle or pedestrian traffic or makes it unsafe. Do not plow snow back into the right-of-way.** Snow should not be stacked over ends of culverts or drainage structures. Rapid warming cycles could result in overloaded ditches being unable to drain and local flooding could occur for which you could be held liable.
- Snow removal operations require the use of large, heavy, noisy equipment during periods of darkness and limited visibility caused by falling snow. Operators are carefully trained and safety is stressed at all times.

Children love to watch snow removal operations - the large equipment, noise, lights and activity can be exciting. Although we are glad to have people watch, everyone should be cautioned to stay a safe distance away. The concentration required for efficient snow fighting combined with the noise and type of equipment used means that operators may not always be able to see small children close by and accidents could result. ***Please do not allow children to build tunnels or forts in snow berms at any time!***

For More Information

If you want or need more information or to report problems, please call:

Public Works.....	228-4727
Street Supervisor	228-4060
After Hours Emergencies, KPD	225-6631
Alaska DOT Road Maintenance	225-2513