

Objective

In an effort to better serve the community and to promote the safety of City employees, City staff has endeavored to modernize snowfighting policies and procedures in recent years. A formalized snow policy has been developed to establish consistent guidelines and expectations.

Approach

Every storm is different, and can range from glazing to dusting to significant accumulation and drifting. Different types of storm call for different approaches. Our new approach provides flexibility to deploy either a 5 or 10-person crew based upon the severity and expected duration of the storm.

Priorities

Our top priority is keeping vehicles moving safely, including access for emergency services. To that end, arterial and collector routes are plowed first, followed by neighborhood collectors. Focusing on these streets first impacts the most people. Since our intent is to provide a safe route, our trucks will typically clear one pass in either direction. Only after the storm is over will they clear from curb-to-curb. Drivers also have a list of trouble spots on their routes; features such as bridges and steep hills.

Tips to Remember

- Stay off the roads if you can.
- Keep cars parked off the street, especially in cul-de-sacs.
- When you see a plow, give it room to work, be patient and drive slowly. The driver has a tough job and is likely working a 12-hour shift.
- When clearing your driveway, pile snow on the “downstream” side to avoid getting plowed-in.
- Make sure your mailbox is secured to the post. Flying snow can damage deteriorated mailboxes and posts.
- Never let kids play in the street, especially on piles of snow or in snow tunnels. Drivers may not see them, and tunnels could collapse as drivers push more snow onto the pile.



Reporting a Problem

- Call Public Works at (314) 835-6130 (M-F 8am-4:30pm)
- Call Public Safety Dispatch at the non-emergency number (314) 835-6200 outside of regular business hours.
- In an emergency, dial 911.



Snow Control FAQ's & Tips



**City of Des Peres, Missouri
Public Works Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO, 63131
(314) 835-6130**

www.desperesmo.org

Scope of Responsibility

The Snowfighting Team is responsible for snow & ice control on all City-maintained streets. There are streets within the City that are maintained by other entities:

- MoDOT: I-270, Manchester Road, and the section of Des Peres Road bounded by Manchester Road
- St. Louis County: Ballas Road, Dougherty Ferry Road and Barrett Station Road

The City does not plow or treat privately owned parking lots or driveways. Snow windrows along the backside of the curb that block driveways are unavoidable during snow removal operations and property owners are responsible for removing them.

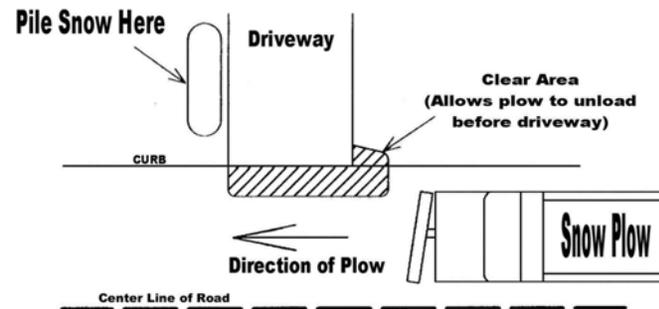
The City is not responsible for snow and ice control on sidewalks except those at City-owned facilities such as City Hall, the Lodge and Public Safety.

The City is not responsible for damage to sprinkler systems located within the public right of way. (§14-364)

For additional information, visit
www.desperesmo.org/1198/Snow-Removal



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FAQ'S

What chemicals are being used?

Depending on the temperature, City crews are using rock salt (NaCl) or rock salt sprayed with liquid Calcium Chloride (CaCl). CaCl is more effective at lower temperatures. Some cities also use brine (dissolved NaCl) to pre-treat by spraying the road, but Des Peres does not have that equipment at this time.

Why did you plow my driveway shut?

Raising the blade at each driveway would leave a pile of snow in the street, which could cause accidents when vehicles hit them. To avoid getting plowed in, always shovel snow to the "downstream" side of the driveway, as shown in the image above.

Why don't you plow the snow into the middle of the cul-de-sac/island?

Snowplows throw the snow to the side. On straight streets, this is simple enough. But on curves, centrifugal force will always throw the snow to the outside, regardless of how plows are angled or which direction the truck goes around the circle. The only way to shove snow to the middle of a cul-de-sac would be to back up into each driveway, which isn't realistic with 125 cul-de-sacs and big trucks.

Why can't you plow my driveway?

This is your private property, so the City has no right or responsibility to clear your driveway. We would be liable for any damage caused by our big trucks. Plus, it is not economically feasible for Public Works to clear over 3,200 driveways.

What if a plow hits my mailbox?

It is rare for a plow to strike a mailbox. When a mailbox is damaged, it's typically from the force of flying wet/heavy snow. A sturdy mailbox can usually withstand such forces, but an older mailbox post may break if deteriorated or not securely built. Sometimes, during storms, citizens driving may also lose control and leave the roadway. Our drivers are required to report any damage they cause, and will be responsible for repairs. If you believe a City vehicle caused damage, please call Public Works.

When will my street be plowed?

During a daytime storm with all ten trucks running, all City streets can be plowed in about two (2) hours. During heavier storms, five trucks run at a time, on 12-hour shifts. With five trucks running, it takes at least four (4) hours to plow all City streets. Of course, during heavier snows, the street may be covered again by the time the full route has been plowed.

Why do trucks plow up my grass?

When the ground is covered in snow, it can be difficult for drivers to determine where the curb is and the blade may accidentally catch the grass when attempting to clear the street. If your grass is damaged, you may call Public Works to request repairs after the storm.