



Press Release

For: Immediate Release
From: Michael Guerra, P.E., City Engineer
CC: Anthony Carson, Jr, City Manager
Date: November 28, 2016
Re: Winter Snow Removal Plan and Snow Routes

In preparation for the start of the winter season the City of Pekin wants to inform the community of its snow removal plan and policies.

Parking Restrictions:

To allow for access to neighborhoods, schools, and other points of interest during snow events the City has identified several streets as snow routes. When snow accumulation reaches two inches or greater a parking ban on these identified streets will be implemented to aid in snow removal from these important routes. There are street signs posted identifying the streets that are snow routes and any parked vehicles need to be removed for the snow event. After the snow event has ended and the street has been cleared the parking ban is lifted. A city map illustrating these routes can be found online at <http://www.ci.pekin.il.us/public-works/streets/snow-removal/>

Depending on the severity of the snow event, the City Manager, at his discretion, can implement a City wide parking ban to aid in the snow removal operations. If a City wide ban is implemented all residents must remove all parked vehicles from the streets until snow removal operations have been concluded or the parking ban has been lifted. If the vehicle is not removed tickets will be issued and vehicle may be towed if it is impeding snow removal operations. A press release to all local news media will be sent indicating the parking ban along with posting on the City website and Channel 22 if at all possible. Notification will be given when the ban has been lifted.

During any snow event the City recommends removing parked vehicles from street and not just during parking bans. This allows easier, safer and more efficient snow removal on all of the streets. If a parking ban is not in effect the City will plow around parked vehicles which may plow them in. The City will not accept requests to clear out any vehicle or re-plow a street that has parked vehicles.

Snow Removal Operational Plan

Each snow event requires different levels of operational needs to maintain safe roadways for the traveling public. The City will assess each event and respond according following these guidelines

For snow events less than two inches – The primary routes and steep hill locations may be salted and/or plowed as needed depending on the road conditions. Generally side streets will not be addressed.

For snow events greater than two inches - The main focus will be the primary routes and steep hills during the snow event with side streets being addressed only when deemed necessary. Depending on the severity of the event shifts may be implemented to perform 24 hr. operations to maintain the primary routes and steep hills. At the conclusion of the snow event and upon completion of clearing the primary routes and hills, the focus will shift to the side streets where clearing will be performed during daylight hours.

Ice Storm Events

The primary routes and steep hills will be salted first with the remainder of intersections throughout town following the completion.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

The City encourages all residents to clear snow and ice from sidewalks on their property to provide a clear walking path for pedestrians. However starting this year a new policy has been adopted by the City Council that requires all commercial property owners to remove snow and or ice within 24 hours after the snow stops falling if the accumulations are less than six inches. If the accumulation of snow and ice is greater than six inches then they will have 36 hours to clear the sidewalk. If another snow event occurs, the clock will be reset to the end of the most recent snowfall event.

Other Snow Removal Reminders

Please don't drive too close to the plow trucks and allow them room to work. This includes not attempting to pass the plow as they clear local single lane roads as you are endangering not only yourself but also the plow truck operators. This will allow them to perform their job more efficiently so that all the streets can get cleared sooner.

Plowing, blowing or pushing snow from private property into the street is prohibited. Snow from private property may not be piled on street right of way. A tip for snow removal for private driveway is to shovel your driveway approach with the flow of traffic. Also shovel a few feet in the road in front of your driveway as these will reduce the amount of snow accumulating in front of the plow and thus reducing the amount of snow deposited back into your driveway. This will reduce the amount of snow that may need to be removed if you shoveled your driveway prior to the plowing of the road. .

Finally please slow down and use additional caution during winter events. Black ice and slick spots can be hard to identify and a few extra minutes of time is worth the safety of the lives in your vehicle and the vehicles around you.