

# City of DuPont

## Public Works Department

### Snow & Ice Control Services

Winter in the City of DuPont, like much of the Puget Sound region, can bring weather conditions that may fall somewhere between long icy winters and cold, wet winters with rare snow events. When a significant snowfall event occurs in “in-between” area like DuPont, questions often arise about the appropriate levels of snow-related services. When should the City plow streets, and which ones come first? How much snow equipment does the City own? What responsibility do members of the public have for taking care of themselves when it snows?

Planning for a winter storm event can be difficult, as each storm event is unique. Public Works crews are charged with maintaining approximately 70 lane miles of streets during inclement weather. It is our goal to provide reasonably safe driving conditions to help keep you moving.

The City's primary snow and ice control equipment is comprised of two trucks with plows and sanders/spreaders, and one truck equipped for preventative application of an anti-icing agent (salt-brine solution). Two of our service trucks can also be equipped with rear-mount spreaders for spreading of granular ice melt in limited quantities as may to address isolated areas of ice or to aid in emergency response efforts. Crews are scheduled to respond as adverse weather conditions are forecast. The department also works closely with Police and Fire services to monitor changes in forecasts or local conditions. During an extended snow and ice event, maintenance crews will switch to 12-hour shifts to provide 24-hour coverage.

In responding to snow and ice events, crews will focus on primary access routes first, including major arterials, bus routes, and designated emergency routes (such as Center Drive, Wilmington, and McNeil). Once these primary routes are able to be left in a safe condition, attention will turn to hills and secondary access routes, and then to remaining residential areas. Not all residential streets will be addressed in the City's initial snow and ice control efforts. The time required to complete the primary and secondary access routes will largely depend on the intensity of a particular snow storm and how much snow or ice has accumulated on the roads. Crews will continue to work extended schedules as long as snow and ice conditions exist.

#### Sand and Salt

Public Works Department personnel monitor weather forecasts to prepare for early response to potential adverse weather conditions affecting our roadways. When possible, a salt-brine solution is applied to primary access streets and hills in advance of snow and ice to help prevent snow and ice from adhering to the roadway. Crews also work closely with Police and Fire personnel to monitor changes in weather forecasts and road conditions. During a snow or ice event, crews may apply sand or granular deicer to roadways, focusing on intersections and hills as needed, to help improve surface traction if compact snow or ice is present. All sand that has been added to the streets for snow and ice control must be cleaned up later or it may end up in the storm drain systems. Crews work hard to find the right balance of plowing and sanding, making sure that there is enough sand applied for traction in difficult areas, but not too much.

#### Plowing

When forecast weather conditions warrant it, plows are installed on two trucks (equipped with sanders) and crews begin pushing snow to the edges of the roadway. The City will typically

begin plowing when two or more inches of snow has accumulated or can be reasonably anticipated, or when forecast wind and weather conditions are severe enough to begin earlier. Four-lane roads (such as Center Drive) may initially have only one lane plowed in each direction with additional lanes open as time and conditions permit. Residential streets will be cleared only after priority routes have been cleared and able to be left in a reasonably safe condition.

Priority routes include primary arterial streets, bus routes, access to freeways and highways, and access routes to critical facilities such as police and fire stations. Within this priority system, routes typically cleared first will include Center Drive, Wilmington Drive, and McNeil Streets.

**Sidewalks:** responsibility of the abutting property owner to keep clear

The City does not provide snow and ice control for sidewalks or other pedestrian walkways. Snow and ice control for these areas is the responsibility of the abutting owner or tenant.

#### **Response planning**

The Public Works Department responds to snow and icy weather based on the City's Ice and Snow Plan. Staff plows and de-ices streets on a priority basis beginning with efforts to clear the most heavily travelled primary arterial streets, followed by lesser travelled streets. Depending on the intensity, duration, and severity of a snow and ice event, crews may not get to all residential areas until after conditions have turned for the better and all primary access routes have been cleared and hills and other areas have been addressed. You can access the snow removal routes on the City's website to see which streets are considered primary or secondary.

#### **Preparing for Winter Weather**

When winter weather has arrived, potential impacts can include: hazardous road conditions, frozen pipes, and impacts to outdoor pets. In an effort to keep you safe and informed, here is a quick list of resources with information that can help you in preparing to "weather" the storms:

For a current weather forecast:

**[Visit the National Weather Service Website](#)**

For more information on winter weather and emergency preparedness, visit:

**[Cold-weather Preparedness, Disaster Kits, and Power Outage Tips](#)**

**[Pierce County Department of Emergency Management](#)**

**[WSDOT - Winter Driving Information](#)**

**[FEMA - Winter Weather Preparedness](#)**

**[Take Winter By Storm](#)**

You can view the plan that the City of DuPont uses to prioritize clearing of snowy and icy roadways by checking the **[Snow Removal Routes page](#)**.