

	<p><b>SNOW &amp; ICE CONTROL</b></p>
<p>Approved:</p> 	<p>Supercedes:</p> <p>Effective: January 27, 2009</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 1 of 4</p>

**FORWARD**

The primary purpose of snow/ice control is to provide for the safety and mobility of the public during periods of heavy snowfall, snow accumulation and icy conditions. Planned levels of service and existing capabilities of the City must be carefully correlated with computed costs of operations and the benefits expected to be achieved. It is the responsibility of the Maintenance Operations Division to provide a level of snow and ice control consistent with the City of Duluth’s approved level of service funding.

The City of Duluth’s Snow and Ice Control policy provides for the planned and orderly control of snow/ice on city-maintained streets, alleys, walks, and parking lots/ramps during periods of inclement weather. Operations are performed and coordinated by the Street Maintenance Work Group, teamed with Park & Traffic Maintenance Work Groups, and other city staff. A planned approach is essential to ensure effective and efficient response to snow and ice conditions.

This policy is also a summary of procedures and policies of the City as they relate to snow and ice control operations. The Snow and Ice Control Policy is reviewed and updated annually.

Snow control and handling is a hazardous, tiring, and stressful job, which may not be fully understood by the public. Operations are performed more often at night and often require crews to work arduous hours, on weekends, and holidays.

We thank those individuals who through their dedication and best effort assist the City of Duluth by carrying out the details of this policy.

**INTRODUCTION**

The City of Duluth believes it is in the best interest of residents for the City to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city-maintained streets, alleys, walks, and parking lots/ramps. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary so that citizens can use the above maintained transportation pathways as normally as possible under all but the most extreme weather conditions for routine travel and emergency services. The City will provide such control in as safe and cost effective manner as practical, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The City will use a combination of city employees, equipment, and private contractors to provide this service. Private streets, parking lots/ramps, alleys, and walks are not the City’s responsibility.

This policy will be enforced equally throughout the City.

## **DECISION TO BEGIN OPERATIONS**

The Maintenance Operations Manager or designee(s) will decide when to begin snow and/or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision will include:

- Reasonable threat of inclement weather predicted to occur within 24 hours;
- Storm conditions that warrant pre-treatment with salt or brine solution'
- Snow accumulation or as road conditions warrant;
- Drifting of snow;
- Icy conditions;
- Time of snowfall.

## **USE OF SAND AND SALT**

The City may use salt, salt brine, sand or a mixture thereof when there is hazardous ice or other conditions that warrant their use. Application will follow the same priorities followed for snow and ice control set forth in the "Snow and Ice Control Priorities" section. The City is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit their use for that reason. Application of sand/salt will be limited on lower volume streets. The Maintenance Operations Manager or designee(s) shall determine when conditions warrant the application of sand and/or salt, and what mixture is appropriate for the conditions.

## **SNOW REMOVAL**

Snow removal operations shall be performed on city-maintained streets, alleys, walks, and parking lots/ramps based upon traffic and pedestrian safety. Snow depth shall typically be removed from business district areas, high volume streets, school access areas, and areas having high pedestrian traffic. Snow removal priority and scheduling shall be based on needs and conditions, and shall be determined by the Street Maintenance Supervisor or designee(s).

## **METHOD OF SNOW REMOVAL**

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The discharge shall go onto the boulevard area of the street and minimize or reduce snow stack upon walkways, where practical.

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS/SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS**

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of city employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include severe cold, significant winds, and limited visibility.

Generally, operations shall continue until all roads are passable. Widening and clean up operations may continue immediately or on the following work day depending upon conditions and

circumstances. Safety of the plow operators and the public is essential. Therefore, snow plowing/removal operations may be suspended temporarily to allow personnel adequate time for rest. There may be instances when this is not possible depending on storm conditions and other

circumstances. Operations may also be suspended during periods of limited visibility. Any decision to suspend operations shall be made by the Maintenance Operations Manager or designee(s) and shall be based on the conditions of the storm. The City will still provide access for emergency fire, police, and medical services during a major snow or ice storm.

## **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PRIORITIES**

The City streets are classified based on street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community.

### STREETS

1. Arterials: Those streets classified as main arterials will be plowed first. These are high volume streets that connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency, fire, police, medical services, and Duluth Transit Authority (DTA).
2. Residential Streets: The second priority streets are low volume residential streets.
3. Alleys: The third priority areas are alleys.

### WALKS, PATHS AND PARKING:

1. Walkways, paths and sidewalks shall have snow removed as quickly as possible given manpower and equipment availability. Priority shall be given to sidewalks of governmental buildings, emergency service providers and business districts.
2. Parking ramps and lots maintained by the City of Duluth shall have snow removed on a rotational basis, established by consideration of mobility and equipment efficiencies.

## **MINIMUM LEVELS OF SERVICE**

The following are minimum levels of service which can be anticipated. The City will attempt to achieve better results where possible.

### STREETS

1. Snow removal and/or sanding operations shall begin when snow accumulation or icing occurs on priority 1 streets, and shall continue periodically throughout the duration of the snowfall. It is the intention of the City to keep these routes open to traffic during a storm; however, it may not be possible to keep them snow or ice free.
2. All priority 1 streets shall be open to traffic (two lanes) within 36 hours after the snowfall subsides.

3. All remaining public streets shall be open to traffic (one lane) within 48 hours after the snowfall subsides.
4. All alleys shall be opened and made passable within 56 hours after the snowfall subsides.

#### WALKS, PATHS AND PARKING:

1. As manpower and equipment are available from priority street operations.
2. As quickly as possible with priority to governmental buildings, emergency service providers, and business districts.

Should a subsequent snowfall occur within the minimum times of service listed, that snowfall shall become the snowfall referred to in this policy.

#### **CONDITIONS WHICH MAY IMPACT GOALS STATED WITHIN THIS POLICY**

- Equipment breakdown
- Vehicles disabled in deep snow
- Weather so severe as to cause crews to be called in from the street, i.e., whiteout conditions
- Equipment rendered inadequate by the depths of the snow or drifts
- Re-fueling, refilling material spreaders, installing new plow cutting edges, and routine maintenance
- Illegally parked, parked, or stalled vehicles that restrict or prevent access; those streets, walks and pathways will be assigned to lower priority, as available
- Unforeseen emergencies

#### **SNOW PLOWING PROCEDURES**

The Street Maintenance Work Group shall maintain a snow and ice control procedures manual.