

# WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

## Introduction:

The City of De Pere Public Works Department provides multiple services. Snow plowing and snow removal is perhaps one of the most visible and important operations that we perform. The City of De Pere has approximately 250 lane miles of road for which we are responsible. We also have several municipal parking lots and sidewalks in the business district and at each of the City buildings that we clean in conjunction with the Park Department. Because of this it is important that we have standards and procedures to follow so that there are reasonable and realistic expectations of our abilities.

Equipment operators are drawn from both the Public Works and the Park Department. During after hour operations operators are drawn from all areas and remain on the job until normal working hours or until the job is complete. During working hours these same operators are responsible for trash and recycling collection, water department operations and repairs, building maintenance, sanitary sewer maintenance, and park operations.

Critical operations in any or all of these areas will reduce the number of people available to clear the roads. During winter weather events we constantly evaluate the manpower requirements and winter weather situation to insure that we are providing the best service to the citizens of De Pere.

Winter weather presents challenges for which we assume all drivers are prepared. Traction is frequently reduced, visibility is limited, traffic moves at slower speeds and drivers need to be prepared for the unexpected. We expect that all drivers have prepared themselves and their vehicles with appropriate winter weather driving equipment and have allowed themselves extra time to reach their destination.

During winter weather events it is our goal to maintain the roads in a drivable condition and quickly return them to pre event condition according to the priority classifications established below. Weather conditions, manpower, and equipment availability may result in compact snow or ice remaining on the road for some time after the event. Drivers should always be prepared for the unexpected and respond accordingly.

For purposes of our winter operations we consider accumulations of three or fewer inches of snow to be drivable. During all winter weather events we strive to have all roads cleaned by the end of the work day that the snow stops falling. Intensity, duration, and timing of the event present unique challenges and may result in longer times than anticipated before we are able to remove the snow from every street.

We have categorized winter weather operations according to the type of storm and classification of the road. We have also developed protocol that describes the sequence of operations that we

will follow in a given situation so that everyone can better anticipate what to expect in a given situation.

For purposes of prioritization we use the road classification system described below.

**PRIMARY ROADS:**

Principal Arterial: These are major routes through the city.

Minor Arterial:

Industrial: Serve the industrial areas of the city providing truck routes to and from business locations.

**SECONDARY ROADS:**

Collectors: These roads feed traffic to the arterial streets.

Sub Collectors:

Residential: These roads may be through streets but they are primarily designed to serve the homes in the neighborhood.

We classify our operations in different phases according to the type of winter weather event. The phases are as follows:

**Salting Operations:**

Snowfall of less than three inches has accumulated. Salt and or plowing may be utilized.

Primary roads may be completely cleared of snow and salt applied. Secondary roads will not be plowed but will have salt applied at intersections, hills, and curves.

**Plowing Operations:**

Snowfall greater than three inches has accumulated. Salt may be used at intersections and known trouble spots. Roads will be cleared in priority order to maintain at least one lane open with less than three inches of snow cover. Primary roads will be plowed first followed by secondary roads. As primary roads are cleared we will proceed to the secondary roads until we have opened one lane of traffic in each direction. Continued snowfall may require that we return to the primary roads or dedicate equipment such that we may experience significant delay in getting to the secondary roads. When we have been able to open one lane in each direction on all roads we will proceed in priority order to completely clear all roads.

During all operations we will focus our efforts in priority order from the arterial to residential classifications. Salt will generally be applied to intersections and corners to increase traction and allow for easier removal of accumulated snow. In all snow plowing operations residents can expect to have snow pushed from the road into driveway openings. This will happen with greater frequency during larger snowfall events. We regret the inconvenience.

Residents are reminded that they should not push or blow snow into the roadway. A fine may be imposed for doing so. Sidewalks should be cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours after the end of the storm event or events and be maintained in a clean condition.