

**CITY OF DES MOINES
SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY**

September 24, 2012

The purpose of this policy is to define and outline snow and ice control priorities and service levels as established by the City of Des Moines. This policy supersedes all previously written documents or unwritten policies of the City of Des Moines regarding snow and ice control.

IN GENERAL

The intent of establishing the City of Des Moines Snow and Ice Control Policy is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and service levels used to manage snow and ice-related street conditions. Each winter storm has unique characteristics. Climatological factors such as storm intensity and duration, wind, temperature, and moisture content affect the total amount of snow/ice accumulation and influence the methodology used to manage the resulting snow and/or ice-related street conditions.

The Department of Public Works endeavors to maintain adequate traction for public safety and public transportation vehicles and for private vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions and properly operated. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall. Furthermore, this does not mean the streets will be free of ice and snow. Winter driving in Iowa involves the risk of slippery conditions.

Three classifications of streets have been established for the purpose of determining priorities and service levels. The following classifications are listed in priority order:

- Class 1. Snow Routes and hospital access streets.
- Class 2. Central Business District (CBD), which includes the CBD streets.
- Class 3. Snow Districts, which include residential streets and other areas outside of the CBD exclusive of Snow Routes and hospital access streets.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Class 1

Streets within this classification are identified on Snow Route maps. Chemicals and/or abrasives may be applied to the surface of these streets upon determination by the Public Works Director or her/his designee that snow and/or ice exists throughout the City. Plowing may commence on these streets when the accumulation of snow on the street itself exceeds one inch. This street accumulation is generally independent of the snowfall amount due to climatological conditions, traffic considerations, and the application of chemicals to melt the snow and ice. Streets in this classification may generally be plowed from curb to curb before plowing proceeds to Snow Districts.

Class 2

Streets within this classification are identified on the CBD map. Chemicals may be applied to the surface of these streets upon determination by the Public Works Director or her/his designee that snow and/or ice exists throughout the City. To minimize disruption to the flow of traffic and parking in the CBD, plowing may be performed between the hours of 7 PM and 7 AM when the accumulation of snow on the street exceeds one inch. The CBD streets, designated as CBD Snow Emergency Streets, may be plowed in conjunction with the Snow Routes anytime of the day or night to facilitate traffic flow. When the accumulated plowed snow reaches the point that vehicular parking areas are filled so that on-street parking is impractical, hauling the snow from the CBD area may be initiated following the completion of snow plowing on streets within Class 1, 2 and 3.

Class 3

Streets within this classification are identified on the Snow District maps. Chemicals and/or abrasives may be applied to hills, school accesses, and difficult intersections, as identified on residential spreading and School Access Routes, upon determination by the Public Works Director or her/his designee that snow and/or ice exists throughout the City. Plowing of these streets may commence when the total accumulation of snow on the street exceeds two inches. This accumulation of snow on the street is generally independent of the snowfall amount due to climatological conditions and traffic considerations. Certain streets in this classification (dead ends, cul-de-sacs, etc.), due to their geometries, may be plowed independently from other streets using specialized equipment.

Snow accumulations in alleys providing primary access to residential properties in Snow Districts may be reduced by plowing prior to the end of a snowfall to facilitate off-street parking during street snow plowing operations.

REFERENCES

The following lists of documents are utilized for field operations and are on file in the Department of Public Works:

- Des Moines City Code §114-236 – 114-236.02, 114-1581 –114-1752, and 114-4175
- Department of Public Works Snow and Ice Removal Manual, current year edition
- Current year edition of the following:
 - Snow Routes
 - CBD, including CBD Snow Emergency Streets
 - Snow Districts
 - Hospital Access Streets
 - Odd/even zone boundaries
- See also City of Des Moines website, for notification information on snow removal operations, at: www.dmgov.org/Departments/PublicWorks