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Get Prepared, Stay Connected

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg encourages all residents to get prepared and stay connected for the most up-to-date information about the next winter snow storm.

With the forecast of bad weather coming on Tuesday evening, residents should make preparations now.

The Public Works Department has been prepared all winter for a storm to move in on Harrisonburg. In the hours before the storm hits, City crews being to work around the clock preparing to clear streets of snow and ice. Personnel will work rotating 12-hour shifts through the duration of the storm. If additional manpower is needed, private contractors are also available to supplement City staff.

Approximately 1,200 tons of salt is in stock and 3,000 gallons of salt brine, which is a pretreatment is ready to be applied to the roadways. Salt brine is most effective when applied to a dry surface. If the forecast is calling for a significant amount of rain leading up to the snow, it would not be an effective product to utilize.

The priorities when clearing roadways are as follows:

1. Primary and minor arterial streets will be the top priority streets to be cleared.
2. Routes serving emergency facilities and schools will also be a primary route for snow removal.
3. Residential streets will be cleared once the primary routes are clear.

Depending on the amount of snow, the goal in Harrisonburg is to have the primary and minor arterial streets clear within 24-hours after the snow has stopped falling. The secondary goal is to have residential streets clear 24-hours after primary streets are complete.

In the event of a significant storm, phone calls to the Harrisonburg Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC) should be reserved for emergency situations only.

Residents are able to assist crews complete the snow-removal process by following these guidelines:

- Avoid parking on the street to allow snowplows to fully clear the streets.
- Stay off of the roadways by avoiding unnecessary travel.
- Never attempt to pass snowplows and stay at least 100 feet behind the trucks.
- After the snow storm, clean snow from vehicles to enhance visibility before hitting the road.
- When driving, increase the distance between your vehicle and other vehicles.
- Shady areas and bridges are sometimes icy, so use caution when traveling over these spots.
- Shovel snow to the right side of your driveway (if looking toward the street). This will minimize snow being pushed back into the driveway when plow trucks come through the neighborhood.

The City of Harrisonburg would also like to remind residents of their responsibility in clearing sidewalks of snow. An ordinance in Harrisonburg requires residents to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their residences and businesses after the snow has ceased to fall (a full copy of this ordinance is available at www.municode.com/Library/VA/Harrisonburg).

Additional information and tips on safety during the winter season is available by visiting www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/winter-safety. Stay connected to information provided by the City of Harrisonburg by visiting www.Harrisonburgva.gov/stay-connected.

The Harrisonburg Public Works Department maintains more than 300 lane miles, 42.37 miles of public sidewalk, 250 miles of curb and gutter, and hundreds of acres of city right-of-way. The Department strives to ensure a safe, clean, and clear passageway for all vehicular and pedestrian traffic. More information about street and sidewalk maintenance is available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/public-works.

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