



For Immediate Release
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City Encourages Residents to Prepare for Snow

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg is prepared for the pending winter weather to arrive and encourages residents, businesses, and property owners to do the same.

The Public Works Department is gearing up for its response to the first significant winter weather event of the season. Although initial preparations of equipment were made in the fall, crews have again checked equipment, stocked supplies, and will continue to monitor road conditions and temperatures now until the end of the weather event.

City crews respond around the clock in 12-hour shifts to plow snow and ice from streets and some high-priority sidewalks. The city has more than 60 employees who use nearly 30 pieces of snow removal equipment throughout Harrisonburg.

During a winter storm, snow removal crews give first priority to the main thoroughfares and main routes to the hospital, rescue squad, fire stations, and public transit routes. Once the priority streets are clear, crews then begin working in the residential neighborhoods.

Guidelines for Residents

The city asks residents to keep in mind the following guidelines for driving and parking in winter conditions:

- Avoid parking on the street, if possible.
- Avoid unnecessary travel when crews are clearing snow and ice from the roadways.
- Do not attempt to pass snowplows and stay at least 100 feet behind them.
- Keep a safe distance when traveling behind other vehicles.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.

Residents are also reminded to shovel snow to the left side of your driveway (if standing at the bottom of your driveway, looking from the street to your home). This way, when the snowplows come through the streets the snow is not plowed to block the driveway.

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Removing Snow from Sidewalks

In the fall, an ordinance was updated for a better process of clearing snow from sidewalks. It remains the same that residents and property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks in front of their homes or businesses.

Property owners now have 24 hours to remove snow if it is six inches deep or less. In the event of a significant snowfall of six inches or more, property owners have 36 hours to clear the sidewalks. The time begins after the snow has stopped falling.

If the occupant or property owner fails to clean off the sidewalk, a notice of violation will be given. After 24 hours of the notice being given and if the sidewalk is still not clear, the city will clear the sidewalk and the expense will be billed to the occupant or owner.

The Public Works Department will manage this ordinance on a complaint-basis.

Additional information on the city's snow and ice program is available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/snow-plow.

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com.*



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