



For Immediate Release
March 13, 2017

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer
540.432.8931
MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov

City Prepares for Snow

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg is prepared for the anticipated snowfall that is expected tonight and into tomorrow and reminds residents to do the same.

Crews with the Public Works Department are working now to pre-treat high priority city streets with a liquid salt brine. These high priority streets include main thoroughfares, roads that access public safety facilities, and streets to the hospital. The liquid salt brine is applied to the asphalt before the storm arrives. Once the precipitation falls on the streets with this application, it helps the precipitation melt and essentially gives crews additional time to remove the snow.

Tonight, city crews will be working to monitor the roadways and keep the streets and some sidewalks clear of snow and ice. On Tuesday morning, motorists are encouraged to use caution during their morning commute and allow additional time to get to their destination. Residents should also make preparations now and be prepared to remove snow from sidewalks, prepare an emergency kit, and have a plan should the power go out.

Sidewalk Snow Removal for Residents and Businesses

Harrisonburg is a pedestrian-friendly community and it is important to have clear sidewalks for those biking or walking as a mode of transportation. Sidewalks that are not clear of snow may force pedestrians to walk in the street, which is not safe.

Residents, business owners, and property owners must clear snow from the sidewalk in front of their home or business:

- Within 24 hours if the snowfall is six inches or less; and
- Within 36 hours if the snowfall is greater than six inches.

The time begins once 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 at the expense of the property owner.

-MORE-

Tips for Removing Snow from Driveways



Driving and Parking Guidelines

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

- Avoid parking on the street. Snowplows can't fully clear the street with cars in the way.
- Avoid unnecessary travel when crews are clearing snow and ice from the roadways.
- Do not attempt to pass snowplows and stay back at least 100 feet.
- In adverse weather conditions, keep a safe distance when traveling behind other vehicles.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges.

The city of Harrisonburg has more than 60 employees who use nearly 30 pieces of snow removal equipment throughout the city. Crews work around the clock in 12-hour shifts to plow snow and ice covered streets and repair equipment. Plenty of salt is stockpiled for the anticipated snow storm. Snow removal crews give first priority to main thoroughfares, main routes to the hospital, roadways to public safety facilities, and public transit routes.

To read more about the city's snow and ice plan or to see the prioritized streets and the order in which they are plowed, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/snow-plow. For the latest news and information, be sure to follow the city on [social media](#) or its [website](#).

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



###