

Passed By Council on:05/10/2004

Purpose

To state City policy on the use of equipment and safe work procedures during street widening and snow removal operations using snowblowers.

Policy Statement

*Please note: City of St. John's snow clearing policies are currently under review and revision. For current information on snow clearing practices please visit [Snow Clearing - City of St Johns](#)

BLOW BACK

Area foreperson shall be responsible for blow back operations in his/her own area.

All snow blowers shall have an escort vehicle traveling directly in front of them when traveling to and from the job site. Escort vehicle must have full headlights on and beacon activated. Snow blower also must have full headlights on and beacon activated. All slow moving snow clearing equipment must travel in the right hand lane when possible when traveling to and from the work site.

Snow blowing operations shall not be performed in school zones when children are present.

If it is necessary to pull snow out onto the street for the blower, then signage shall be placed indicating "snow clearing operations in progress", at the beginning and end of the street.

There shall be a spotter performing safety checks for the blower operator between 10 m & 20 m in front of the blower while the blower is in operation. When this is not possible, the operator shall disengage the augers until the spotter is available.

Spotter shall wear all personal protective equipment including strobe light and carry an operable red coned flashlight for signaling. Spotter and blower operator shall also wear a communication head set.

Blower engine shall be shut down before clearing chute or performing any maintenance on the blower. Blower attachments must be fully lowered while performing any maintenance.

When visibility between the spotter and the operator becomes significantly reduced, blowing operations shall cease. Blowing operations must also cease whenever the operator considers it unsafe to continue. The supervisor responsible shall then be informed to determine further action.

DAY TIME SNOW REMOVAL

One foreperson shall be assigned by the lead foreperson to be responsible for each snow removal operation.

Notification shall be sent to the Call Center when closing down streets for day time snow removals. Notification must be given before street(s) is (are) closed.

Signage and barricades shall be placed at the beginning and end of removal street indicating "no entry-snow clearing operations in progress". These barricades must be manned in order to provide access for residents of that street, and for emergency vehicles. Signage shall also be placed at major intersecting and through streets.

Removal street shall be closed to traffic until removal operation is completed and street salted.

Before snow removal operation begins, notification shall be given to vehicle owners to remove as many parked cars as possible to facilitate an effective snow clearing operation. Such notification will consist of knocking on doors of residential households.

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There shall be a spotter performing safety checks for the blower operator between 10 m & 20 m in front of the blower while the blower is in operation. When this is not possible, the operator shall disengage the augers until the spotter is available.

Spotter shall wear all personal protective equipment including strobe light and carry an operable red coned flashlight for signaling. Spotter and blower operator shall also wear a communication head set.

Blower engine shall be shut down before clearing chute or performing any maintenance on the blower. Blower attachments must be fully lowered while performing any maintenance.

Blower operator shall not overload trucks to create an unsafe load. Particular attention shall be paid to load stability. No snow should fall off truck on the way to the dump site. Trucks loaded by bucket or snow basket must not be loaded above the side of the box.

Snow blowing operations shall not be performed in school zones when children are present.

NIGHT TIME SNOW REMOVAL

All streets in the “designated downtown area” slated for snow removal shall be listed on the snow line not later than 3:00 p.m. of the evening prior to the removal.

Snow removal notification signage shall be placed on each street slated for snow removal not later than 6:00 p.m. of the evening prior to snow removal. At least one sign must be placed on each side of each street block.

Vehicles impeding snow removal shall be towed from the street only at the beginning of removal from that particular street and only between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

One foreperson shall be assigned by lead foreperson to be responsible for each snow removal operation.

Signage and barricades shall be placed at the beginning and end of removal street indicating “no entry-snow clearing operations in progress”.

Removal street shall be closed to traffic until operation is completed and street is salted.

In cases where streets with a speed limit greater than 50 km/h are snow covered following removal operations, warning signage shall be left in place until the road conditions are no longer a hazard to traffic.

All snow blowers shall have an escort vehicle traveling directly in front of them when traveling to and from the job site. Escort vehicle must have full headlights on and beacon activated. Snow blower

must also have full headlights on and beacon activated. All slow moving snow clearing equipment must travel in the right hand lane when possible when traveling to and from the work site.

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NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE OPERATOR OF THE SNOWBLOWER IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF THAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.

Application

Responsibilities

Department of Public Works and Parks.

Definition

References/Appendix

Monitoring and Contravention

Approvals

Finance and Administration Standing Committee report - May 4, 2004. Regular Meeting of Council - May 10, 2004.

Review Period

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