Policy: 08-01-02 Print
Street Snow Clearing

Passed By Council on:

Purpose
To outline the City's strategy for the plowing and removal of snow from City streets.

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

1. Immediately upon the recognition of slippery street conditions, the City will commence application of a salt, a salt/brine liquid mix or sand where deemed necessary (the choice being made in accordance with the City's Ice Control Policy 08-01-03 governing use of each), but without any attempt to mechanically remove the snow from the street surface except through the melting effect of the applied salt.

2. If snow continues to accumulate past a depth of 4 to 5 cm., then plowing will begin.

3. If snow continues to accumulate past a depth of 10 to 15 cm, a piece of equipment will be assigned to each snow clearing route as defined on our route mapping system.

4. Throughout all stages, streets will be cleared bases on the priority as defined in the Snow Clearing Priority Policy 08-01-01.

5. If the severity of a storm dictates that all streets cannot be kept open, then the objective of the snow clearing operations will be to maintain a reasonable continuous flow of traffic on as many of the high priority streets as possible. Equipment will not attempt to clear the low priority streets, even periodically, unless it can do so without letting the high priority streets become impassable.

6. As weather and availability of equipment and operators permit, all streets will eventually be fully cleared, in priority order. Full clearing will include the entire street surface, from curb to curb, when possible, including parking lanes where applicable, but subject to there being sufficient space behind the curbs for safe banking of snow. Clearing may also include sidewalks in certain areas if so stipulated in the Sidewalk Snow Clearing Policy 08-01-04.

7. Where insufficient space exists for safe banking of snow behind the curb lines, snow banks may be permitted to encroach upon adjacent parking or driving lanes, provided that a reasonable traffic flow is still possible, until such time as full width can be restored by blowing and/or loading and removal of additional snow. Such operations will not take place until weather, traffic, and other conditions permit it to be done safely, and the necessary equipment is not otherwise engaged in more essential clearing operations.

8. Any and all snow clearing operations may be suspended at any time if deemed necessary for reasons of safety and effectiveness. This will include such considerations as the rate of snow fall and drifting, traffic and driving conditions, visibility, damage to equipment or property, operator fatigue,

and equipment maintenance requirements.

9. Implementation of this policy, including the exercise of discretionary decision making authority, is the responsibility of the Manager of Streets and Parks.

Application

Responsibilities
Department of Public Works and Parks.

Definition

References/Appendix

Monitoring and Contravention

Approvals
Department of Engineering and Works Policy Manual Item 3111. Approved by Director of Engineering and Works on April 12, 1991. This is a revision of a prior approval dated November 14, 1990. Never formally approved by Council. Public Works and Environment Standing Committee report - May 13, 2003; Regular Meeting of Council - May 20, 2003.

Review Period

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