



City of Newburyport
Department of Public Services
SNOW AND ICE PLAN
2020 / 2021 Season

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Introduction:

The City of Newburyport takes great pride in making our public roadways as safe as possible under the worst of winter conditions. Keeping our public ways safe and accessible during snow and ice events is of highest priority in order to reduce the likelihood of personal injury to the general public, automobile accidents and property damage. The City's goal is to quickly open the streets and make them passable so that essential vehicular traffic can safely negotiate roadways. Residents can help us do this by working together.

Snow Emergency Parking Ban:

The City of Newburyport implements a snow emergency parking ban when it is predicted that we will receive three or more inches of snow accumulation. If there is a parking ban in effect, it will appear on the City's website www.cityofnewburyport.com. To get email notifications from the website be sure to select the "Notify Me" button on the front page and sign up.

In addition, eleven flashing blue lights will be activated throughout the city at the following locations, usually at least six hours before a declared snow emergency:

March's Hill at Bromfield St.

Route 113 at Hoyt's Lane

Water St. at Shandel Dr.

Market Square

Storey Ave, Ferry Rd and Moseley Ave Intersection

Malcolm Hoyt Dr. at Parker St.

High St. @ State St.

Route 1 Rotary and State St.

Route 1 @ Merrimac St.

Merrimac, Moseley and Spofford (Roundabout)

Storey Ave. across from Daniel Lucy Way

Green St. @ Merrimac St

You may also contact The Department of Public Services Weather Event and Emergency Information Line at 978-463-0472 to find out the status of the parking ban. Parking regulations are strictly enforced to ensure that streets remain accessible for snowplows, fire apparatus and

other emergency vehicles. **Any vehicle that impedes the snow removal process will be towed at owner's expense.**

Alternate Delegated Parking Areas:

The City of Newburyport offers alternative designated parking areas for on-street cars that include the following: Titcomb Street Parking Garage, Green Street Municipal Lot (except in areas posted no parking during snow emergency), Cashman Park (off Merrimac Street), Cushing Park (Washington Street) NRA Waterfront Lots East and West, Hales Court Lot (corner of Hales Court and Prince Place) and State Street Lot (corner of Harris Street and State Street). In order for DPS to clear these lots, temporary parking bans and vehicle removal may be posted and announced on the City website and Weather Event and Emergency Information Line at 978-463-0472. After snow removal is complete in a lot, it will open for parking.

PLEASE NOTE: All vehicles must be removed from the above listed lots within 12 hours following the cancellation of the snow emergency (weekends included) or vehicles will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

SNOW EMERGENCY CANCELLATION INFORMATION can be obtained by checking www.cityofnewburyport.com or calling the Weather Event and Emergency Information Line at 978-463-0472.

DPS will do its best to lift the city-wide Snow Emergency parking restriction as soon as possible. The city-wide parking restriction will only be lifted when the DPS Director or Deputy Director determine that on-street parking will not cause a public safety issue to emergency response vehicles. We may seek advice from the City Marshal or Fire Chief to assist us in making this determination.

On some narrow streets, the DPS may post temporary no parking signs after the snow emergency has been lifted in order to maintain a safe and adequate vehicle travel lane. Many of these streets are located in Wards 1, 2 and 3. We will evaluate these streets on a daily basis to see if these signs may be removed once the roadway has an adequate travel lane width.

Snow Plowing:

The following is a general description of how the Department of Public Services plows snow from city streets.

Step 1. Pretreatment (1"-2" of accumulated snow)

When a snowstorm begins, the department responds by pretreating the main roads. This serves two purposes: to keep traffic safely moving and to prevent the snow from bonding to the pavement. If the snow event is less than 2" or 3" inches of accumulated snow. We may halt operation after all the roads have been

pretreated and evaluate if additional treatment is required.

Step 2. Snow clearing (2" or greater)

Snow plowing begins when snow accumulates or is predicted to be two (2) or more inches. Over 48 city and privately operated pretreatment and snow clearing vehicles/equipment may be dispatched to respond to a snow emergency. DPS crews and private contractors will continue to plow until the snow event ends. We will continue to monitor the conditions of the roadways and determine if additional snow clearing equipment is needed or if equipment may need to be reassigned to another section of the city.

Step 3. Post storm clean-up and clearing

Once the snow event has concluded, DPS conducts our city-wide final snow clearing operation. This operation includes one last round of snow clearing and general cleanup to make the roadways safe for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This operation may take days or weeks, depending on total amount snow accumulation. DPS will prioritize this operation based on the following in order of importance.

1. Main streets and school routes are treated to achieve the safest possible conditions.
2. Inclines and major intersections are treated to improve safety.
3. Flat streets are treated only if icy conditions exist.
4. Downtown and other business areas treated and snow removal may take place if needed.
5. Snow piles at intersections are pulled away from the corners to improve sight lines for existing vehicles. Snow may need to be removed judiciously from these intersections. Snow may be removed from narrow streets to improve the access for emergency and public service vehicles. Snow removal is time consuming and labor intensive; the DPS Director or Deputy Director will prioritize these streets solely based on public safety.
6. Lack of parking is not a safety issue. Nevertheless, if time, staffing and funds allow, we may clear snow from other narrow streets. These streets are determined from input from the Mayor's Office, City Councilors, residents, and emergency agencies.

SAFETY REMINDER: When driving, please stay 200 feet behind any snowplow and NEVER pass a plow truck. Visibility is not good for the snowplow operator.

Sidewalks:

The removal of the snow and ice from sidewalks is the responsibility of tenants, occupants and property owners. The City of Newburyport clears designated sidewalks following each storm, but only after all of the roads has been cleared. These sidewalks are in the downtown areas, surrounding schools and other city-owned property.

The City's Code of Ordinances (Sec. 12-52) requires tenants, occupants and property owners to remove snow

and ice from their bordering sidewalks within six hours after the snow ceases to fall if it ceases to fall in the daytime and before 12:00 noon if it ceases to fall in the nighttime. If a property owner/occupant neglects to do so, he/she shall be fined \$50. Violations of this section may be enforced by any police officer, the health director or his designees.

Driveways

DPS tries to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed across driveways, but snow plows cannot “go around” driveways. Plow blades cannot be lifted as they pass by a driveway. Unfortunately, snow will be plowed into driveways as we perform curb-to-curb plowing. You may wish to clear your driveway several times during the storm or wait until the storm and plowing activities have ended.

Snowplowing, shoveling, or throwing snow back onto the street when clearing driveways, yards, roofs or sidewalks is prohibited by City Ordinance Sec. 12-7 and violators can be fined \$50.

Mailboxes, Fences & Shrubbery Damage

The City will not pay for damaged mailboxes, fences, and shrubbery unless actual contact is made. Residents should mark out such items in drift prone areas. Claims for these damages should be submitted to the Auditor’s Office no more than 30 days to be considered for replacement or payment at the City’s option.

Notifications

All residents and business owners are strongly urged to sign up for announcements or urgent alerts from any or all City departments. On the City of Newburyport’s website homepage, click on the large gray button that reads “Notify Me” to choose your notification preferences. Weather-related and other emergency notifications are provided by the City via news announcement posted to the website. If you are signed up for notifications, you will receive an e-mail alert letting you know that a new announcement has been posted by the City. This is especially useful in receiving the latest messages about parking restrictions and other information.

GPS Communications:

DPS has installed GPS in all plowing vehicles allowing record keeping of time, location, fuel consumption, speed and safety of all city and contracted plowing vehicles. The GPS units also help with making sure roads are cleared in a fair amount of time, helps alleviate damage claims to property and break downs.

Please note that this plan is always a work in progress. As we learn from our experiences and technology changes, we may find different ways to conduct pretreatment, snow clearing and snow removal with greater efficiency and lower cost.

