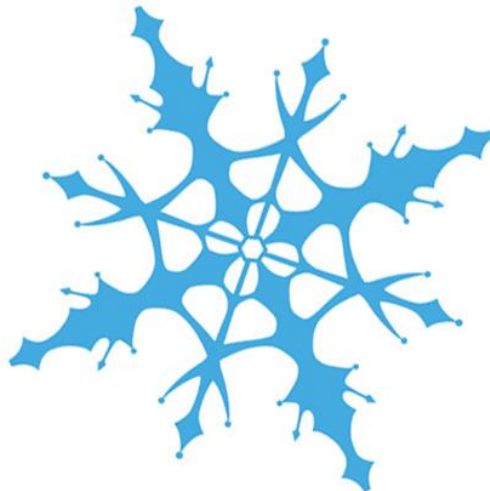


CITY OF RAWLINS, WYOMING
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STREET DIVISION

Phone numbers for snow removal and
operations

307-328-4599

Email: pbworks@rawlins-wyoming.com



Snow Control Operations

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

One of the primary objectives of the City's Public Works Department is to provide a plan for the safe and orderly movement of emergency equipment, vehicular traffic, and pedestrians in the City of Rawlins. A snow control plan has been developed to facilitate this objective as it relates to street maintenance during adverse weather conditions. The procedures presented in this plan serve to outline the manner in which the Public Works Department directs City crews to solve problems of snow accumulation during both ordinary and emergency situations.

Average snowfall in Rawlins is about 52 inches per year, which is complicated by strong winds. Because of the high cost of equipment and labor, the City cannot economically justify removal of all accumulations of snowfall from every street in the City. The City's policy is to provide maximum service on major arterial streets and other selected streets comprising a network too safely and orderly move the majority of the City's traffic, and to provide access for emergency vehicles, school buses, and at critical locations such as the hospital and schools. In addition, however, this plan assures all areas of the city within a couple of blocks of critical snow removal routes.

The following priorities outline the established level of snow removal to be expected for streets in that priority level.

- ❖ #1: All main arterials considered the minimum network, which must be kept open to provide for transportation system connecting the hospital, fire stations, police station, and other essential emergency services.
- ❖ #2: All remaining arterials, selected collectors and bus routes, and around schools.
- ❖ #3: All other selected collectors completing the network covering major traffic volume streets and selected "hot spots" such as intersections, hills, and streets that typically drift shut under windy conditions.
- ❖ #4: all remaining streets, such as residential and local streets.

Rawlins has approximately 85 miles of streets. For snow removal, they are usually divided into the above-described categories. Except for unusual conditions or emergencies, streets or segments of streets are assigned to one of the prioritized categories. Under most conditions, priority 1, 2 and 3 streets will be kept open and maintained. When that is not possible, they will be dropped from the maintenance list in reverse order (Priority 3 streets will be dropped before priority 2 streets). The snow routes have been established so that regardless of which priorities are dropped, the remaining portions comprise a connected, continuous system.

Priority 4 streets may not receive regular winter maintenance. If snow accumulation completely blocks traffic movement, the priority 4 streets will be plowed as soon as possible. Equipment will be provided as necessary to respond to emergencies.

When plowed snow either restricts or interferes with traffic, snow will be loaded and hauled to pre-determined storage sites. When possible, the majority of hauling will be done during off-peak traffic times.

Parking on streets may be temporarily restricted if parked vehicles interfere with through traffic, plowing, sanding, or snow removal operations.

It is illegal for private person to place, dump or push snow into city streets or rights-of-way from adjacent properties.

SNOW EMERGENCY

What is it?

The City Manager has the authority to declare a snow emergency when snow conditions are such that normal snow operations are not able to keep the streets clear. During snow emergencies, a special “No Parking” ban goes into effect on selected City streets. This is the most effective way to provide access for effective snow control operations. Posted Snow Emergency Routes, main arteries and the central business district are plowed first.

The priority street are the first plowed for the entire city, general in a grid pattern. The Snow Emergency Route System was planned so very few residents have to go more than a few blocks to get to a plowed street. It also allows emergency vehicles to get within a few blocks of every residence. These are truly “emergency” routes to keep essential services functioning after a major snowfall or heavy drifting that could otherwise paralyze out city.

Other main streets are plowed immediately after Emergency Snow Routes are completed. School areas are plowed immediately after the Snow Emergency Routes are opened if possible.

Vehicles parked on a posted snow route during emergency conditions may be ticketed and towed at the owners’ expense. In addition, plows may continue to work in the area around parked vehicles, block them with piles of snow. Adherence to the Emergency Snow Route parking restriction is greatly appreciated.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Goals:

The City's principal goal during any snowstorm is to keep primary and collector streets open and safe for the motoring public. IN addition to primary and collector streets, priority is given to streets adjacent to schools, bus routes, police and fire stations; intersections with stop signs, hills, curves, and dangerous intersections on residential streets. All remaining residential streets will receive service only after the above priorities are treated and only when conditions warrant.

Procedures:

When plowing is required, snow can only be piled in the center of the street or towards the curbs. Street width, parking and other considerations determine which will be used in a given area. Opening of driveways is the responsibility of the property owner. The department tries to keep this problem to a minimum. We ask that citizens of Rawlins be patient and recognize that during blizzards, there is bound to be some temporary inconvenience.

PARKED OR ABANDONED VEHICLES

The City of Rawlins does have posted snow routes and will enforce Chapter 10.81 of the Rawlins Municipal Code: Whereas, any vehicle left unattended and that vehicles interferes with the free movement of vehicular traffic or proper street or highway maintenance, that vehicle may be ticketed, towed, and/or impounded.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Exercise extreme care when driving in inclement weather. Driving on snow packed and icy roads requires your full attention and driving skills. A few basic guidelines to remember during winter driving are:

- ❖ During a snowstorm, you can help City crews by not parking along Snow Emergency Routes (refer to the map for some of the specific locations).
- ❖ Equip your vehicle with snow tires or chains to improve traction. Remember to brake slowly.
- ❖ During times of poor road conditions, allow extra room between yourself and the vehicle ahead of you.
- ❖ During times of reduced visibility, watch for bicycles, disabled elderly, and other pedestrians.
- ❖ Be patient. Drive at reduced speed and allow more travel time to reach your destination.
- ❖ Be considerate of your friends and neighbors. Remove snow from your sidewalks.
- ❖ Give snow removal personnel and equipment time and room to do their job.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why don't your drivers plow the snow down to the pavement?

The streets division uses "gravity" plows mounted to the trucks we use during the rest of the year. These plows tend to ride on top of the snow pack. In addition, "bare" pavement snow removal tends to damage water valves, manholes, pavement and pavement markings. It can also be hazardous to the operator.

It seems like we are always plowed last. Why can't we be first sometimes?

That is a good question. First, we follow the snow removal priority plan. We do start and stop at the same location. We ask our drivers to alter their routes if conditions permit.

When is it OK to park on my street again after it has been plowed?

You can park in any permitted parking area as soon as the snow has been plowed to the curb or its full operation width. Be careful, however, it may take more than one pass of the plows to complete the job.

Why don't you just tow the cars off the street that do not observe the snow emergency parking ban?

We try to but sometimes it is just too time consuming. It involves the street division, Police Department, a towing contractor and considerable paperwork. Moreover, this is normally a time when those people are in high demand. If there is a car on your street that is never moved, call the Police Department at 307-328-4530.

I am very concerned about our environment. Why don't you do more plowing and eliminate the use of sand or salt?

Plowing and sanding serve different purposes. Both need to be done for large snowfalls. Sanding and salting are more effective for small accumulations of snow and ice. We use a low salt/sand ratio. We also use other chemicals to treat the streets for your safety.

Whom can I call if I have a complaint or request?

For the quickest response on your snow plowing or sanding questions, call 307-328-4599. After normal business hours, call the Police Department at 307-328-4530 and they will contact our "on-call" personnel who are available at all times from October through April.

Can't the City remove the snow they put in my driveway?

Given the large number of driveways in the city, it is just too costly and time consuming to use additional personnel and equipment to perform this service. Our primary duty is to keep the main roadways open. Our crews try to keep blocked driveways to a minimum.

What can you do to get the public to shovel their sidewalks?

The city requests and encourages property owners to shovel their sidewalks. If you do see an unshoveled sidewalk that is dangerous to pedestrians, please ask the owner to shovel the walk as a good neighbor.

I would like to make a suggestion on snow removal. To whom can I send it?

We will be happy to take your suggestions. Send them to the Rawlins Public Works Department, PO BOX 953, Rawlins, WY 82301 or email them to pbworks@rawlins-wyoming.com

A NOTE OF CAUTION:

In the last few years, many people have bought "ATV's" with plow attachments. Please do not plow snow into the streets. It is dangerous for you, City personnel, and traffic. It generally creates a hazardous condition by creating humps in the road, which make snow removal difficult and can cause vehicles to lose control. We have asked the Police Department to actively enforce the prohibition against plowing into the streets. It is for your protection.