



# Snow and Ice Procedures

**Your Safety is our Priority.** City Public Works crews are prepared to battle the winter’s snowfall with a fleet of more than 15 trucks equipped with salt and sand spreaders and plows. While crews work to make all city streets passable within 24 hours, extreme weather conditions may extend this time.

**Snow Emergencies.** The City Manager may declare a snow emergency upon the announcement of a winter storm warning by the U.S. Weather Bureau or other forecasting service. At that time, citizens must keep the designated routes clear; parked or stalled cars will be ticketed and towed. A snow emergency is immediately in effect once three inches has accumulated on these routes.



**Information on Snow Emergency Closures.** Citizens may find out if a snow emergency is in effect by calling the **City News Recording at 703-273-1776**, tuning in to **Cityscreen-12**, the **City’s cable station**, or tuning in to the **City’s radio station WQEL 1650 AM**. Announcement of government and school closings are also cable cast on Cityscreen-12.

**The Primary Route System.** A designated network of streets called the “Primary Route” System, as indicated below, receives priority in snow and ice control operations. These major roads are cleared first to endure that emergency service vehicles can pass through and CUE Buses can stay on schedule. A road supervisor regularly monitors the City streets to assure that sanding, salting, and plowing measures are adequate.

- Primary Route System**
- FFX Blvd (Routes 50 & 29)**
- Chain Bridge Road (Route 123)**
- Old Lee Highway**
- Main Street (Route 236)**
- Pickett Road (Route 237)**
- Jermantown Road (Route 655)**
  
- CUE BUS Routes**
- Warwick Avenue**
- Draper Drive**

**Snow Plowing Service.** The snow plowing procedure is determined by the amount of snow. In light snow (less than 3 inches), crews spread salt on all primary routes and a sand and salt mixture on the remaining streets. If more than three inches accumulate, these primary routes are plowed, followed by the remaining subdivision streets. Once the storm has stopped, plowing continues until all streets are passable.

**Cars on the Roadway.** Do not leave cars parked on the street during plowing or other snow clearing operations. On-street parking makes plowing difficult, and at times impossible. Also, parking in a driveway or parking lot will reduce the chances of having to shovel the car out of a snow drift.

**Snow Removal Responsibilities of Residents.** Property owners must clean snow from their driveways and sidewalks. Snow should be piled to the right-hand side of the driveway (facing the street). Though plow drivers may accidentally push snow in driveways, time restraints prevent them from removing it. Pushing snow back in the street is illegal and is punishable with a fine.



**For More Information on City Snow Procedures**

Call  
**703-385-7980**  
  
Or  
**703-385-2629**

## Snow Travel Tips

By far, the biggest impediment to clearing the streets is traffic. Stalled cars and gridlock ensure a tough time for drivers and road crews. Here are a few tips for avoiding traffic problems during snowfall.

- During poor weather, use mass transit. CUE buses make every effort to run, no matter how severe the weather.
- Remove parked cars from streets immediately.
- Think ahead. Pay attention to weather forecasts. Employers should cooperate with regional weather emergency plans by staggering the departure of employees — send home workers who live the furthest away before those who live closer to the workplace to decrease the number of cars on the road at one time.
- Carpool when even a little snow is forecast .
- Keep snow gear in the car during the winter months: a snow shovel, scraper, bag of sand or kitty litter, and a blanket. Also, consider placing cinder-blocks or other heavy objects in the trunk of a rear-wheel-drive car.

### Emergency Telephone Numbers

- Fire and Rescue Services..... 911
- Police ..... 703- 591-5511
- Fair Oaks Hospital ..... 703-391-3600
- Fairfax Hospital ..... 703-776-4001
  
- Public Works Department**
- Snow Removal, Disaster Situations, Traffic Lights, Potholes, or Storm Drain Repair**
- ..... 703-385-7980
  
- Utilities Department**
- Water or Sanitary Sewer Problems 703-385-7915
- (or if after hours emergency)..... 703-385-7924