

Snow Removal Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens when it starts to Snow?

A: When a storm alert is issued or in the forecast, Public Works begins preparing a response plan. Liquid anti icing materials such as beet juice/salt brine may be applied to the surface of main arterial roads, hills, and bridges, and intersections. When snow begins to accumulate, plow trucks are sent out to begin plowing or salting depending on road conditions. When 2 or more inches of snow is on the street, trucks begin plowing “emergency snow routes” and downtown streets first. Residential streets, parking lots, and alleys are plowed once snow routes and the down town streets have been opened.

Q: What streets have snow related parking restrictions, when do parking restrictions get implemented and for how long?

A: Parking is prohibited on all Emergency Snow Routes when snow accumulates 2 inches or more on the roadway surface. Emergency Snow Routes are identified by signs posted on every block for each emergency snow route, unless it is already posted as No Parking. A list of snow routes and a map highlighting the routes can be found on the City’s webpage <http://www.fortdodgeiowa.org> and click on the Public Works page under the Departments tab.

Q: How will the City notify residents of parking restrictions due to a pending storm?

A: The Public Works Department will issue news releases, post information on the city website and Facebook page. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Webster County Alerts and Nixle. By signing up for Webster Alerts, in the event of an emergency or severe weather, an alert will be sent to the phone number provided by voice, text, email, or pager. The service is free. To sign up go to the Webster County webpage <http://www.webstercountyia.org/> and click on Webster Alerts. Nixel is a similar text based alert service provided by the City of Fort Dodge. To sign up visit <http://www.nixle.com/>. Residents are also reminded that a snow emergency is automatically in effect whenever we receive 2 or more inches of snow anywhere in the city. There is No Parking on any emergency snow route when we receive 2 inches or more of snow.

Q: Where can I put the snow?

A: Residents are reminded not to shovel, blow, or throw snow onto the street. This creates a hazard on the streets for other motorists and often requires additional response time for public works to come back and push the snow back to the curb.

Q: Why did the plows leave snow in front of my driveway and on our sidewalks?

A: Because snow plows are designed to push snow to the side. Snow does get deposited at the end of driveways and onto sidewalks as a byproduct of plowing. Snow plow operators do not place snow in driveways on purpose. There is no practical way for the snow plow operator to cut off the windrow of snow when crossing a driveway.

Q: The plow dumped snow at the end of my driveway, can they come back to move it?

A: Unfortunately no, it would be extremely costly to the city and the taxpayer to have snow plows remove snow from over 8,000 driveways in Fort Dodge.