

# SNOWPLOWING POLICY

## 1. Introduction

The City of Alden believes that it is in the best interest of the residents for the City to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The City will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The City will use city employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

## 2. When will city start snow or ice control operations?

The Street Superintendent will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Snow accumulations of 1 inch or more;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently snowplowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than 1 inch.

## 3. How snow will be plowed?

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go onto the boulevard area of the street. When a plow goes on a bridge, the driver shall slow down so that snow does not go over the bridge if possible. In times of extreme snowfall, streets will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

## 4. Snow removal

The Street Superintendent will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the boulevard for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

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**5. Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed**

The City has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Those streets classified as “Snow Plow Routes” will be plowed first. These are high volume routes which connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services. These streets include Euclid Street, North Broadway, and West Main Street.

The second priority streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses. The third priority streets are low volume residential streets. The fourth priority areas are alleys and city parking lots.

**6. Work schedule for snowplow operators**

Snowplow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes have to work in excess of eight-hour shifts. However, because of budget and safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a twelve-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. Operators will take a fifteen-minute break every two hours with an hour meal break after four to six hours. After a twelve-hour day, the operators will be replaced if additional qualified personnel are available.

**7. Weather conditions**

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of city employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: sever cold, significant winds and limited visibility.

**8. Use of sand, salt and other chemicals**

The City will use sand, salt and other chemicals when there is hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The City is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

**9. Sidewalks**

The City will maintain some of the sidewalks in the city. The list of those sidewalks is attached. As there is a limited number of personnel available, the city will only maintain these sidewalks after the streets have been plowed. These sidewalks include the sidewalk in front of City Hall and the Fire Station and the one by Morin Park.

November 10, 2004