



# SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Occasionally traveling on icy, snowy roads is an unavoidable part of Minnesota winters. The City helps residents get through winter road conditions safely with snowplowing services at a cost of \$3.04 per month for an owner of a median-valued home. As early as 3 a.m., snowplow operators are out on the streets preparing them for morning commuters after or during a snowfall. They plow the most heavily used roads first and then move on to other roads, cul-de-sacs and sidewalks. The City prides itself on its snow removal services. In the 2018 resident survey, 76 percent of respondents rated the City's snow removal services as excellent or good, which is higher than the national average.

## WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is a declaration from the City that is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. During a snow emergency, no parking is allowed on city streets for the following 48 hours or until the full width of the street has been plowed. There will be snow emergency alerts on the City's website, cable channel, E-Subscribe and social media pages.



## SOLUTIONS TO SAFE STREETS AND WATER BODIES

To make it tougher for snow and ice to stick to streets, the City treats roads with an anti-icing brine solution. The brine is a mixture that includes water and salt. The solution evaporates and leaves behind thin deposits of salt after it is sprayed on streets. The salt prevents the bonding of snow and ice to the street so plows can more easily scrape the street clean. The brine solution reduces the amount of salt required to clear streets. This, in turn, protects the surrounding bodies of water from salt runoff in the spring.

## PLAY IT SAFE

Winter can be a wonderland for kids—building snowmen, sledding and even playful snowball fights add to the joy of the season. Just remember to help your kids play it safe in the snow. Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off of the plows can collapse tunnels or forts and may severely harm kids. Keep sleds and other toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas.

## WAIT TO CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY

Don't double your workload. Wait to clear the end of your driveway until your street has been plowed so you only have to shovel once. While clearing streets, crews may inadvertently plow snow from the road into driveways that have already been shoveled.



## PRACTICE PROPER PARKING PROTOCOL

To ensure that all streets are fully cleared, Bloomington Police enforce a parking ban during snow emergencies. To find out if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the City's website or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

## KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice makes walking around Bloomington safer for pedestrians. The City asks that residents and business owners keep their sidewalks free of fallen snow and snow that may be moved onto the sidewalk during street or driveway snow removal efforts. It is illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk. The City is also responsible for keeping some sidewalks clear—crews plow 250 miles of sidewalk each year at a cost of 22 cents per month for an owner of a median-valued home.

## SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

Shovel out fire hydrants near your home to help protect your neighborhood from house fires. Accessible hydrants greatly reduce the time it takes firefighters to extinguish fires. Keep your mailbox clear of snow. Mailboxes should not extend past the curb and should have sturdy four-by-four timber posts. The bottoms of mailboxes should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and located on the left side of your driveway. If it snows on or near garbage collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway and behind the curb. Place containers off sidewalks to leave room for plows.

## START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

Every winter when snow flies, the City's snowplow fleet is out in force keeping our streets safe. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car. In a crash with a plow, car passengers are more likely to be seriously injured. Here are a few things to remember when sharing the road:

- Yield to snowplows and stay alert.
- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room. Allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow.
- Never drive into a snow cloud created by a snowplow.
- Do not use cruise control on wet, icy roads.
- Keep garbage cans in your driveway, not on the road.

If snow removal operations damage turf or a mailbox, contact Street Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

## SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

Do you want to get an email whenever the City declares a snow emergency? There's a service for that. Sign up for E-Subscribe alerts at [blm.mn/E-Subscribe](http://blm.mn/E-Subscribe) to stay in the loop.

## LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! BLOOMINGTON'S SNOW TOTALS

There's plenty of snow to be found during Minnesota winters. Bloomington is no exception. On average, Bloomington sees 45 inches of snowfall a year. The winter of 2010 – 2011 was particularly snowy. It clocked in at a record-high 86-inch snowfall. Check out how the last couple years stack up.

