



SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

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Whether it's skiing, snowboarding, sledding or sitting near the fireplace with a cup of hot cocoa, winter brings some wonderful things. One of the less enjoyable elements of the season is traveling after or during a snow event. The City helps residents get through winter road conditions safely with snowplowing services at a cost of \$3.25 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 2017 resident survey, 82 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 street has been plowed from curb to curb. There will be snow emergency alerts on the City's website, cable channel, E-Subscribe and social media pages.

SOLUTIONS TO SAFE STREETS AND WATERBODIES

Before snowfall, the City treats streets 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 the streets. The salt prevents the bonding of snow and ice to the street so plows can easily scrape the street clean. The brine solution reduces the amount of salt required to clear streets. This, in turn, protects surrounding bodies of water from salt runoff in the spring.



SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

The Fire Department requests that residents shovel out fire hydrants near their homes. Accessible hydrants greatly reduce the time it takes firefighters to extinguish a fire.

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.

REMEMBER 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.

PLAY SAFELY

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 children. 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. Children should never play near the edge of the road.

DRIVE SAFELY

Yield to snowplows and stay alert. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car. In a crash with a plow, car passengers are more likely to be seriously injured. Never drive into a snow cloud created by a snowplow. Do not use cruise control on wet, icy roads.



WAIT TO CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY

To reduce the chances of having to shovel more than once, wait to clear the end of your driveway until your street is plowed from curb to curb. Snowplows may inadvertently plow snow from the road into driveways that have already been shoveled.

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice makes safe pedestrian travel possible. 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—maintenance workers plow 250 miles of sidewalk each year at a cost of 19 cents per month.

START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

Each winter, the City's snowplow fleet is out in force keeping our streets safe. Here are a few things to remember:

- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room. Allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow.

- Keep garbage cans in your driveway, not in the road.

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

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

Stay informed about snow removal in Bloomington. To receive notifications when the City declares a snow emergency, sign up for E-Subscribe alerts at blm.mn/E-subscribe.

