



## SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS IN MEDFORD

### SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY

The goal of the Medford Department of Public Works is remove snow and ice from our roadways as rapidly and efficiently as possible while keeping the roads open and essential traffic moving safely. Each storm develops with different factors that include temperature, wind, moisture content, snow accumulation per hour and duration. The aim is to return roads to safe winter conditions as soon as possible. With the proper use of storm forecast, personnel, equipment and materials, the desired results should be attained. Flexibility is needed to adapt to the variety of circumstances and conditions during each snow and ice event

### BEFORE THE STORM

We are loading our trucks with sand and salt and preparing for the storm. We ask that you park your vehicle on the proper side of the street (odd for odd year/even for even years) this year (2011) parking will be on the odd side. **Do not** block parking 'spots' with chairs, cones, etc. they will be confiscated and removed by the police. Snow Emergencies are usually posted on the local TV stations, on the front page of the Medford webpage.

*Vehicles will be towed during a declared Snow Emergency.*

### DURING THE STORM

Plows will begin to plow when there is approximately 2" of snow accumulation. They start on main roads and work their way onto secondary roads. Private plows also assist the City with plowing secondary roads. During a storm our goal is to keep streets passable for emergency vehicle access. Roads will be widened as soon as possible, but not before other streets are made passable for emergency vehicle access. During a lighter snowfall, every main street, submain and residential street will be cleared of snow throughout the duration of the storm; a minimum of once every few hours. During a heavier snowfall, the focus of clearing roadways will be on main streets first, sub-mains second and residential streets third. Each route is assign necessary equipment depending on the amount of snowfall. The roadways will be made as safe as possible for vehicular traffic and emergency vehicles.

When snow accumulation is predicted, sanders are dispatched to pre-treat mains and some sub-mains prior to a storm event. The City's sanders are assigned a plow route, but can be dispatched to other routes in the event that additional sand or salt is needed to localized areas.

### SANDING OPERATIONS

If there is an ice or snow event with little or no accumulation expected, the Highway foreman along with the Police Department will monitor the streets and roads for problems. Salt and sanding operation will begin and end as conditions warrant.

## **AFTER THE STORM**

Plows will continue to clean and widen streets and roads in the City until they have all been plowed. Sanding will continue as needed. Please be aware that it could take several hours to complete plow operations after the snow has stopped. Remember, the last thing that the plows do is push back the edges which widens the streets and allows for future snow storage. We do apologize for any snow this may place into driveways that may have already been cleared. Please be aware that we have numerous plows and sanders working throughout the City. You may see a City plow with its plow raised or sanding trucks not spreading sand. These trucks may be returning for fuel or sand or may be en route to their assigned a route.

## **SNOW PILE REMOVAL**

On occasion, it may be necessary to remove snow piles from business districts and municipal parking lots. When snow removal is scheduled or in progress, temporary “Snow Removal-No Parking” signs will be posted.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Please limit your travel if possible. This will keep the road free and clear for our heavy equipment to do their job. Residents and businesses are reminded not to shovel, blow or throw snow onto streets or pile it blocking sidewalks. Snow in these locations will create a hazard. **DO NOT** shovel, plow or blow snow back into the street. Not only is this a major safety concern, it is also illegal. *Please be patient.* We are going to plow every street as quickly as possible, we make several passes.

- When clearing driveways, snow should be kept on the owner’s property or tree/lawn grass strip. Snow should not be deposited onto the street or sidewalk.
- Prevent street flooding by clearing catch basins near your home allowing rain or melting snow to enter drainage system.
- In the interest of public safety, do not pile or plow snow to obstruct a fire hydrant. Considering “adopting” a hydrant by shoveling and clearing the hydrant in your neighborhood.

Sand is available for residents at the City Yard on James Street (please bring your own container). If you have any questions, please call **781-393-2402**, the Highway Yard.