

The City of Huron Street Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to its residents. A major function during the winter months is to keep the city roads clear of ice and snow. The Street Department is concerned about the public welfare and safety of its residents and those motorists who travel throughout the City of Huron. Due to this concern the Street Department has put together a snow and ice removal program to ensure that the roads continue to be safely maintained during wintry conditions.

This program will cover the preparation prior to the winter storm season, operations during a winter storm, and post storm maintenance. It will focus on providing guidance and direction for the Street Department employees as they work to maintain safe traveling conditions on Huron roads. This program will put forth standards for preparing and maintaining equipment used during the winter season. Also included will be factors used to determine when the Street Department begins snow and ice control operations.

During the snow and ice control operations, priorities will be set based on street, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. This snow and ice removal program will include the routes and priority streets, as well as the areas of concern to be considered while plowing or salting.

The hope in putting this snow and ice removal program together is to provide the Street Department employees a standard of operation for snow and ice control. It is also an informational piece to be used by the public, council, and administration to better understand the snow and ice control operation of the Street Department.

The first step to successfully accomplish snow and ice control during the winter season is preparation. In mid October all trucks, plows, and salt spreaders used for winter operations are thoroughly checked and readied for the season. Another step needed in preparation for the winter season is to secure bids for road salt. This is usually done in August and for the last two years has been in conjunction with Erie County as part of bulk bidding.

The determination of when to proceed with snow and ice control operations is made two ways: During regular operating hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m) the Street Superintendent, while monitoring prospective storms, will decide when to start snow and ice control operations. On nights, weekends, and holidays the Police Department will monitor the streets and notify the on call employee when it is necessary to begin snow and ice control. The Police Department will also notify the Street Superintendent as to the situation. Since no winter storm is the same, each situation will be different; and once called out, the truck operator will be responsible for the decision to only salt the roads and/or plow. Factors involved in this decision will be the time of day, the temperature, wind speed, and the weather forecast.

After the call employee starts the snow and ice control operation, it will be his discretion to call all out additional assistance. Once called out, each employee must take

at least five minutes to go through the Pre-Snow Operation checklist before they leave the Service Complex to perform snow and ice control.

Once the pre-op checklist has been completed, the next step in snow and ice control is to determine what areas will be cleared first. If the operator is called out for ice control, the priority will be to salt the bridges, major intersections and main roads. If the operation is for snow removal, then those employees involved will clear the bridges, main roads, stop sign areas, and school bus routes first. After the preceding areas have been cleared the housing developments will be plowed. When all employees are out they have their own respective areas to maintain. When their area is done then they assist those in other areas to complete the task.

While this program gives parameters and priorities to snow and ice removal, the operators have the ability to make any changes they feel are necessary due to the conditions of the storm at that time.

When snow plowing or salting, the most important factor is safety. This means obeying traffic laws at all times. Speeding not only puts excessive wear and tear on the plow but it makes it difficult to adjust to unexpected maneuvers by others on the road. Snow and ice control operations are undertaken for the public safety and welfare of our residents; therefore no one's safety will be jeopardized.

Two miscellaneous items to remember during snow and ice control operations are: First, be aware of any special event or location in the City that results in an area becoming densely populated for a short period of time. Examples of such events are school athletics, plays, concerts, or a popular restaurant. Paying special attention to these areas when necessary due to weather conditions will help add to the public safety and welfare of our community. Secondly, if any damage occurs to either private or City property during snow and ice control, please report it immediately.

Once the weather has subsided and all the roads, streets, and city lots have been cleared the snow and ice control operations will be suspended. The operator will then complete a Post Snow Operation checklist to alert of any possible repairs that might be needed before the vehicle is used again.

With everyone's cooperation we are sure that the snow and ice control program for the City of Huron will be successful. If at any time you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call and we will get back to you in a timely manner. Remember that we want you to be able to get onto the roads as soon as possible but we also want the roads that you will be traveling to be as clear and safe as possible.

Daniel Hoppe, Sr., Street Superintendent  
10 Waterworks Drive  
Huron, OH 44839  
Phone (419) 433-9504  
Fax (419) 433-9509  
[dhoppe@cityofhuron.org](mailto:dhoppe@cityofhuron.org)