

City of Rochester Hills Winter Maintenance Policy

Purpose:

To provide a safe roadway system during the winter months by operating effective winter road maintenance services.



During winter months, the Department of Public Services is responsible for clearing snow on 222 miles of Local Roads and 38 miles of City Major Roads. The City also maintains (by contract with the Road Commission of Oakland County) Livernois from South Boulevard to Tienken. The Road Commission maintains most other major roads. Department of Public Services winter maintenance work crews are assembled from various departments within the City including Local and Major Roads, Sewer Department, Water Department and Drains. In emergency situations, Parks and Engineering employees will also participate in snow removal activities.

Objectives for Winter Maintenance Operations

1. Reduce the danger associated with snowy and icy road conditions.
2. Prioritize the school bus and industrial routes.
3. Support emergency operations for the Police and Fire Departments.
4. Provide cost effective and fiscally sound use of winter maintenance funds.
5. Promote better communications with adjoining communities and road agencies to provide information of the conditions of road surfaces.

Priorities:

The City of Rochester Hills has identified three levels of snow and ice control priorities for Major and Local streets.

The priorities are classified by monitoring the Doppler radar forecast and by employee observations of actual road conditions. Additional information on road conditions is provided by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. The priorities include the following categories.

Category 1 Snowfall of less than 4 inches

EMERGENCY

ROUTES – 38 miles of major streets that are traveled by emergency vehicles. These streets are plowed and salted on a 24 hour/7day basis as needed.

Category 2 Snowfall of 4 or more inches

EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major streets that are traveled by emergency vehicles. These streets are plowed and salted on a 24 hour/7day basis as needed.

LOCAL ROADS – 222 miles of local streets are plowed and salted on an as-needed basis 24 hours a day 7 days a week. When plowing local roads, the city is divided into six plow routes. The routes begin on the East and West sides of the city and progress towards the middle based on traffic counts.

Category 3 Snowfall of more than 8 inches

EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major streets that are traveled by emergency vehicles. These streets are plowed and salted on a 24 hour/7day basis as needed.

LOCAL ROADS – 222 miles of local streets are plowed and salted on an as-needed basis 24 hours a day 7 days a week. When plowing local roads, the city is divided into six plow routes. The routes begin on the East and West sides of the city and progress towards the middle based on traffic counts.

Goals:

- Following a significant snowstorm (4 or more inches in a 24 hour period), plow all local streets within 48 hours recognizing that each step will require more time to complete depending on the severity of the storm.
- Apply de-icing chemical as needed to maintain roads in a passable condition.
- Clear pedestrian pathways after all local roads are plowed.
- Maintain school cross walk intersections on overtime basis, however other pathways will not be cleared on overtime.

Communications:

The City of Rochester Hills will receive information and comments from the public at the following telephone number: 248-656-4685.

Winter Weather Emergency Policy

Please note: In accordance with City Ordinance 98-108, the Mayor has the authority to declare a "Winter Weather Emergency" should weather conditions warrant. During a winter weather emergency, all vehicles must be removed from city streets to allow snow plow vehicles to clear our streets as safely, quickly, and completely as possible.

Should the Mayor deem it necessary to declare a snow emergency, residents will be notified via Rochester Hills Cable Channel 55/10, the City of Rochester Hills website, local television and radio stations; and, if time allows, a press release will be published in local newspapers.

Ordinance 98-108 can be found on the city's website at www.rochesterhills.org.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664.