

# Winter Maintenance Policy

City of Rochester Hills



# Purpose, Goals & Objectives

## Purpose:

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

## Goals:

- Following a significant snowstorm (4 or more inches in a 24 hour period), plow all public roads within 4 days.
- Apply deicing chemical as needed to maintain roads in a passable condition.
- Clear pedestrian pathways after all local roads are plowed.
- Utilize overtime to maintain school crosswalk locations.

## Objectives:

- Reduce the risk to the traveling public associated with snowy and icy road conditions.
- Prioritize the school bus, major roads and industrial routes.
- Support emergency operations for the Police and Fire Departments.
- Manage equipment, personnel and materials in a responsible manner.
- Communicate with adjoining communities and road agencies to provide information concerning the conditions of road surfaces.
- Provide service in an environmentally sound manner.

# Snowfall Guidelines

*The City of Rochester Hills has prioritized snow and ice control into two categories for Major and Local Roads.*

## **CATEGORY 1**

Snowfall of less than 4 inches

**Major Roads & Emergency Routes-** 52.8 miles of major roads(Including 5 miles of County owned Livernois Rd.), that are traveled by the most vehicular traffic, as well as emergency vehicles. These roads are plowed and salted on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week, as needed.

**Local Roads-** 240.6 miles of local roads are plowed and treated during our normal Department of Public Service(DPS) hours, Monday-Friday, 7:00 am-3:30 pm

**Note: These are general guidelines.** The response from the Department of Public Services will be adjusted to meet the unique weather and resulting roadway conditions of each winter event.

**Note about Covid** -The City's response time is based on normal staffing levels. Any illness causing staffing level adjustments during a snow event could delay the city from clearing the streets in the time frame listed.

## **CATEGORY 2**

Snowfall of 4 or more inches throughout the City.

### **Major Roads & Emergency Routes-**

52.8 miles of major roads(Including 5 miles of County owned Livernois Rd.), that are traveled by most vehicular traffic as well as emergency vehicles . These roads are plowed and salted on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week as needed.

**Local Roads-** 240.6 miles of local roads are plowed and treated 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. Typically the Plow Routes begin on the East and West sides of the City and progress towards the middle. During a substantial snowfall some Primary Residential Plow Routes may be plowed before drivers begin the East/West Routes.



# Winter Weather Emergency Policy & Communications

***\*ALL VEHICLES MUST BE REMOVED FROM CITY MAINTAINED STREETS DURING A DECLARED WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY!***

## Emergency Policy:

In accordance with [City Ordinance 98-108](#), the Mayor has the authority to declare a "Winter Weather Emergency" should weather conditions warrant.

## Snow Emergency Notifications:

- Rochester Hills Television & Website
- Rochester Hill Instagram, Facebook & Twitter Pages
- Local Television & Radio
- Press release in local news papers- (If time allows)
- Sign up for Alerts- [Notify Me](#)

## Message from the Mayor



Go to [rochesterhills.plowtracker.com](http://rochesterhills.plowtracker.com) to see where the city has plowed or salted.

To "Report a Concern" go to [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or call the Department of Public Services at 248-656-4685

**Note:** Removing vehicles from public streets during any storm event greatly helps city plow and salt trucks to clear streets faster, safer, and more efficiently.

# Depositing Snow on Public Streets Is Prohibited!

*Contractors hired for snow removal cannot push/remove snow from private property into, or across the street....IT'S THE LAW!*

## MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT) Act 300 of 1949

### **257.677a Obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush prohibited.**

Sec. 677a.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Person" shall not include the state or a political subdivision of the state or an employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state operating within the scope of his duties.

(b) "Safety vision" means an unobstructed line of sight enabling a driver to travel upon, enter, or exit a roadway in a safe manner.

(2) A person shall not remove, or cause to be removed, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle other than off-road vehicles.

(3) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle.

**(4) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway.**

# Sidewalks, Hydrants, Trash Cans & Mailboxes

## Public Sidewalks:

Per [City Ordinance 84-11](#), residents are required to clear snow & ice from their sidewalks within 48 hours after winter storm events have ceased.

## Fire Hydrants:

Even though there is no law that states a homeowner has to clear around a hydrant in front of their home. Taking the time to do so greatly helps the Fire Department in the event of an emergency.

## Trash Cans:

Residents are urged to keep their trash cans out of the street during snow events to help City snowplows work as fast and efficient as possible.

## Mailboxes:

Prepare your mailbox for winter. When snow plows come down your street they can throw a lot of wet, heavy snow that can knock your mail box down or off if it is not secured properly-Watch the video for helpful tips.





# Helpful Information and Statistics

Rochester Hills **32.2 sq. miles**:

- 240.6 miles of local roads
- 47.8 miles of major roads
- 678 cul-de-sacs & eyebrows
- 99 miles of pathways
- 14 tandem axle dump trucks
- 2 single axle dump trucks
- 2 road graders
- 18-four-wheel drive pickups with front plows
- 2 Bobcat Utility Terrain Vehicles

## Why does the city plow snow into my driveway?

When city crews plow the streets there is no practical way to stop the snow from piling up when crossing every driveway. There is just not enough time, staff & money to go back to remove it. Below is a diagram to help minimize the chances of snow piling up by having a cleared area before the driver gets to your driveway.

## Winter Safety Tips



### HOW TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF SNOW BLOCKING YOUR PRIVATE DRIVE

