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.

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

The priorities are classified by monitoring 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 and other road agencies. The priorities include the following categories:

Category 1
Snowfall of less than 4 inches

MAJOR ROADS & EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major roads 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. 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.

LOCAL ROADS – 242 miles of local roads 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.

Category 2
Snowfall of 4 or more inches throughout the City

MAJOR ROADS & EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major roads 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.

LOCAL ROADS – 242 miles of local roads 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.

Goals:
Following a significant snowstorm (4 or more inches in a 24 hour period), plow all local roads within 4 days recognizing that each step will require more time to complete, depending on the severity of the storm.

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

During winter months, the Department of Public Services is responsible for snow and ice control on 242 miles of Local Roads and 38 miles of City Major Roads. The City also maintains (by contract with the Road Commission for Oakland County) Livernois from South Boulevard to Tienken. The Road Commission maintains most other mile roads. Department of Public Service’s winter maintenance work crews are assembled from various divisions within the Department of Public Services including: Local and Major Roads, Sewer Division, Water Division and the Water Resources Division. In emergency situations, Parks and Engineering employees will also participate in snow removal activities.

Objectives for Winter Maintenance Operations:

1. Reduce the risk to the traveling public associated with snowy and icy road conditions.
2. Prioritize the school bus and industrial routes.
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.

For additional information, please visit http://www.rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?nid=260.