

Contact:

Matt Phelps
Communications Specialist
Matt.Phelps@snoco.org
425-388-3126

Fay Lim
Communications Supervisor
Fay.Lim@snoco.org
425-388-6413

Snow Hits Snohomish County: Resources to Prepare for Traveling on County Roads

Online resources include snow removal and priority route maps for plows and deicers

EVERETT, Wash., February 13, 2021 – Snohomish County Road Maintenance crews began clearing roads Friday night. As of 6 a.m., 1,960 miles of roads throughout the county have been cleared. So far, 375 tons of sand, 372 tons of sand/salt mix and 14,526 gallons of anti-icer have been used. Crews will continue to plow, sand and deice until temperatures rise and conditions return to normal.

Before heading out today or during a snow or ice event, it is highly recommended that commuters check their travel routes and options. For those venturing through unincorporated Snohomish County, visit the Public Works [Snow and Ice webpage](#) for road closure information and more. The new [snow removal and anti-icing map](#) shows which routes are primary and secondary and allows residents to see what county roads have been recently plowed, sanded or had anti-icing applied.

The prioritization of snow and ice routes are based on traffic volume, transit and school bus routes, terrain, and knowledge of problem areas. The prioritization does not change based on public calls – even multiple calls – requesting service.

During snow/ice weather events, it's also important to:

- Know who to call and when:
 - Life-threatening emergencies, call 911.
 - [Non-life threatening emergencies](#): 425-407-3999
- Snohomish County Road closure/plowing: 425-388-7500
 - Work requests for road plowing will be recorded but will not impact the priority listing during snow and ice events.
- Give snowplows and deicer equipment plenty of room to work. Allow for a minimum following distance of 200 feet.
- If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the displaced snow and ice, or sand spray.
- Vehicles parked along all major arterials and emergency routes must be moved off the street. Those vehicles left in the travel lane of a roadway and blocking traffic may be towed at the

owner's expense. It is recommended for vehicles to be moved when snow is in the forecast. Parking vehicles in the driveway and off the road helps the snowplows finish routes more quickly and efficiently.

- Residents clearing driveways and snow berms are advised to pile the snow to the left side as you face the house, especially closer to the road. This prevents the snowplow blade from pushing the material back into the driveway. Throwing snow onto the road creates obstructions in the roadway and can be hazardous.
- Keep drainage inlets near your home clear of leaves and debris during the winter months to help reduce the chance of flooding.
- Try to keep garbage bins and other obstacles out of the street when the roads are icy or covered with snow.
- Obey road closed signs.
- Be sure to have vehicles mechanically prepared for cold weather. Have tire chains or traction tires readily available.
- Keep food, water and medical supplies in your home that will last at least one week. Pay attention to weather reports and plan ahead for even longer periods of time.

Follow the [Department of Emergency Management](#) and [Snohomish County](#) on Twitter and like [Snohomish County on Facebook](#) for the most up-to-date information during an event.

About Snohomish County Public Works

The Snohomish County Public Works Department employs approximately 600 staff members that develop and maintain county roads; control and manage surface water quantity, quality, and fish habitats; and oversee the recycling and disposal of solid waste. The department's main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201. For more information about Snohomish County Public Works, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks.

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