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## **Snohomish County Surpasses 30,000 Road Miles Plowed**

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

**EVERETT, Wash., December 28, 2021** – Snohomish County Road Maintenance crews surpassed 30,000 road miles plowed overnight as new snow accumulations forced the return to some primary routes. As of 7 a.m., 30,231 road miles throughout the county have been plowed and 13,381 miles have been sanded. Crews will continue to plow, sand and deice until temperatures rise and conditions return to normal.

“Our crews are returning to the primary routes to keep them clear for emergency responders with new snow accumulations,” Snohomish County Public Works Director Kelly Snyder said. “They are working very hard to get those clear so we can return to the secondary and tertiary roads. Residents can help plow drivers by moving garbage cans and parked cars from the road. These items often times get in the way of the plows and slow them down.”

Many curbside trash pick-ups are delayed due to snow. Check your garbage hauler’s website so you know when to push out those cans. Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste facilities remain open regular hours during the inclement weather. However, it is recommended that residents only travel on roads if necessary to remain safe and to provide as much space as possible for plows to operate. For more on Solid Waste services, visit [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/207](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/207)

Road Maintenance crews also suggest that residents who shovel their driveway should move the snow to the left when looking at their home from the street and keep the snow out of the road if possible. This helps the snowplows avoid pushing the material back into the driveways. The plow drivers have many miles of roads to clear and are not able to stop and clear snow from driveways or move garbage bins and obstacles out of the way. Every bit of help from the community helps tremendously.

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.
- 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 Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management and Public Works department on Twitter and like Snohomish County on Facebook for the most up-to-date information during an event.

Follow Snohomish County departments on social media for the most up-to-date information during an emergency event:

- Follow the Department of Emergency Management on [Twitter](#)
- Like Public Works on [Facebook](#) and follow on [Twitter](#)

### **About Snohomish County Public Works**

Snohomish County Public Works is responsible for approximately 1,600 miles of county roads, more than 200 bridges and manages about 200 traffic control signals. The department also processes nearly 600,000 tons of garbage per year. Its mission is to focus on safety and mobility while practicing fiscal responsibility and Snohomish County Public Works preserving the environment. Public Works has won numerous state and national honors for its work and is the largest department within Snohomish County government with approximately 500 employees plus seasonal staff. Its main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201.

Visit [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks) or follow the department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information about Snohomish County Public Works.

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