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Snohomish County Road Crews Winding Down Snow Fight with Emphasis on Ice, Side Routes

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

EVERETT, Wash., December 31, 2021 – With temperatures expected to rise Saturday and Sunday, Snohomish County Road Maintenance crews will transition this weekend from a 24/7 operation to regular shifts. Crews will continue to sand to improve traction on icy roads through Saturday, focusing on secondary and tertiary routes.

Through Dec. 31, road maintenance crews have logged the following:

- More than 74,000 road miles plowed
- Nearly 28,000 road miles sanded
- 230 tons of coarse maintenance sand used
- Over 7,000 tons of coarse maintenance sand with salt mix used, and
- Nearly 640 tons of blue salt and sand mix used

“Our crews have worked very hard over the past week keeping our county roads plowed, sanded and deiced,” said Snohomish County Public Works Director Kelly Snyder. “Their work, especially during the holiday season, is to be commended.”

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.

Public calls requesting service will be addressed where possible after priority routes have been cleared. The prioritization of snow and ice routes is based on traffic volume, transit and school bus routes, terrain, and knowledge of problem areas.

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 and used to prioritize secondary and tertiary routes as time allows.
- 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 or follow the department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information about Snohomish County Public Works.

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