

**Contact:**

Matt Phelps  
Communications Specialist  
[Matt.Phelps@snoco.org](mailto:Matt.Phelps@snoco.org)  
425-359-7143

Bill Craig  
Communications Specialist  
[Bill.Craig@snoco.org](mailto:Bill.Craig@snoco.org)  
425-754-5680

## **Snohomish County Working to Clear Secondary and Tertiary Roads, Encourages Residents to Clear Drains**

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

**EVERETT, Wash., January 1, 2022** – With the slowdown in precipitation, Snohomish County Road Maintenance crews are now working primarily to clear secondary and tertiary roads throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. The crews have cleared more than 80,000 road miles during the past week.

“Our Road Maintenance crews have done a great job of removing the snow but we know there is a lot of ice out on the roads,” Snohomish County Public Works Director Kelly Snyder said. “We are continuing to put down sand for traction in those stubborn icy areas until it starts to thaw out.”

Staff is also responding to other elements of the storm, such as downed trees, and will continue to work with Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD) to respond to downed powerline situations. With temperatures expected to rise above freezing this evening, Public Works encourages residents to clear all drains of snow, ice or any other debris. This will allow the melting snow to flow freely into drains and help reduce the risk of urban flooding.

Snohomish County Road Maintenance crews will transition this evening from a 24/7 operation to regular shifts with the change in temperature.

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. 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 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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