

CITY OF OURAY

SNOW

REMOVAL

POLICY

November 1, 2009

Background

The City of Ouray provides snow plowing/removal City wide including the parking areas on Main Street. It has been established that as a general rule the crew will begin plowing activities when measureable snow fall accumulation reaches 4” in depth.

The intent of this policy statement is not to undo or question the procedures that have been largely followed in terms of snow removal, but rather to establish, in writing, a cohesive summary of the procedures that are followed, and guidance for staff in the exercise of decisions related to snow removal.

Policy

Commencement of Snowplowing

Snow plowing commences upon an accumulation of 4” of snow within the City. If the snow is wet and heavy, snow plowing should commence upon the accumulation of 3”. The following caveats are to be noted:

- There is no qualification as to where the measurement occurs. An accumulation that reaches these thresholds, anywhere within the City boundaries, should be sufficient to trigger the work. Discretion must obviously be exercised in those instances where snow fall may be heavy in one side of the City, and not the other (plowing may be justified only in the area receiving heavy accumulation). The purpose for the threshold criteria is to establish a general standard which will be applicable in most cases.
- In those instances where heavy accumulations are expected, discretion should also be exercised as to when to commence snowplowing. It may be advantageous to commence plowing prior to the accumulation of 4” in order to avoid large accumulations during heavy storms and rapidly accumulating snow.
- As a general rule, the staff will commence plowing at anytime accumulations should warrant. Main Street snow removal will commence at 2:00 AM.

Notification of large snow accumulations after business hours

Should the accumulation occur after business hours (8-4:30, Monday through Friday), and is heavy enough to have significant impact upon the community, on-call public works staff shall be notified accordingly. As a general matter, such notification should occur by the on-duty Police Officer, but it could occur through other City staff or officials. The Public Works Director should be attempted first, with the Street Foreman as backup, who will in turn call out other Public Works employees as necessary to assist.

Priority of Streets & Sidewalks

The City Crew is responsible for clearing the parking areas on Main Street; they also clear the sidewalks on Main Street from 5th Avenue to 10th Avenue. This work is performed between 2 and 8 AM.

Snowplowing of streets, as a general matter, focuses first on school streets and streets in and around City Hall (this includes Emergency Services and the Fire Department), then the core area of the City, which includes from 3rd avenue to 10th avenue. , followed by outlying residential neighborhoods. This work is normally performed simultaneously with the snow removal on Main Street. In addition, the staff will normally try to plow the alleys at the same time as the streets but this is done with a different piece of equipment so the schedule may be different.

First Priority

Main Street
6th, 7th and 8th Avenues around the School/City Hall
4th and 5th Streets around the school/City Hall

Second Priority

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th & 10th Avenues
2nd, 4th, 5th & 6th Streets
Oak Street
Ski Hill Lane
Queen and Pinecrest
Ouray Vista
Fedel Court
Loretta Court
Chautauqua Lane

Third Priority

Pool parking lot
Rotary Park
Box Canyon-lower Road
WWTP
Water Tank

Fourth Priority

On-street parking in Business District
On-street Parking in residential areas

The crew will also attempt to clear snow from the local church parking lots on Saturday and Sunday mornings when possible.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

In accordance with 1315-B of the Ouray Municipal Code the owner or tenant in possession of property abutting City sidewalks is responsible to remove accumulations of snow and ice from the sidewalks. While the City may elect to actively remove snow from critical sidewalks necessary for safe and expedient pedestrian travel (i.e. school access, public parks), it does so at its own election, and this shall not lessen or dispense with the obligations of any property owners to maintain sidewalks abutting their properties.

Driveway Apron Snow removal

The City has no obligation to remove snow from access and driveway aprons other than upon City owned property and facilities. Property owners are responsible for removal of snow upon their own properties. The placement of removed snow on City street right-of-ways or sidewalks is prohibited. Pursuant to 13-2 of the City Code, it shall be unlawful to create or fail to remove any encroachments or obstructions including ice, snow, mud, dirt, debris, rubbish and filth upon any City owned property including but not limited to streets, alleys, sidewalks, curbs or gutters. Any violation of this prohibition is declared to be a nuisance, which may be abated by the City pursuant to the provisions this section 10-47 of the City of Ouray, Colorado, or in any lawful manner.

Public Parking Areas

Once snow is removed from public streets and critical public sidewalks, staff will pursue removal of snow in public on-street parking areas throughout the City where on-street parking occurs. This is likely to occur on the day following conclusion of the storm. Owners of vehicles parked in such areas are advised to park their vehicles on the north and east sides of the City streets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and on the south and west sides of the street on Tuesday and Thursday during this time frame to allow for effective snow removal.