

CITY OF BREMERTON Public Works & Utilities		Snow and Ice Procedures
POLICY INDEX Admin	EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/28/22 REVIEW DATE: REVISED DATE:	APPROVED

Policy: To establish snow and ice procedures.

Procedure:

Level 1 – Freezing Temperatures Forecast and Slick Roads Anticipated

Dry weather permitting, a day or two before place salt brine and/or sand at limited locations (Priority and Secondary routes plus other critical locations including bridges, arterials, medical facilities, and other known problem areas). Should rain precede the forecasted freezing temperatures, place sand and brine when prudent.

Level 2 – Freezing Temperatures Occurring for Several Days without Snow

Same as level 1 except salt brine and/or sand will be applied at additional locations as determined by the PW Operations Manager and Supervisor.

Level 3 –Snow Event with Temperatures Generally 28 to 32 degrees

If road conditions are dry prior to the event crews will apply salt brine to primary and secondary routes. The salt brine helps prevent the snow from becoming ice, but it is only effective as a preventative measure if the road surface is dry.

- The City’s plows are very effective for snow events with typical temperatures. Additional salt brine application is effective for reducing ice formation and breaking up compact snow in typical temperatures.
- Prior to event, Set-up trucks for response:
 - Set plow blades and sanders on all tandem axle dump trucks except one to be used for material hauling or other emergency response.
 - Set plow blades on all four F550’s Set up two for sanding and two for brine application.
 - Ensure brine machine and bulk brine storage are filled and operational. Fill all truck brine tanks.
 - Test all equipment to ensure serviceability.

- If applicable, notify staff of pending 24-hour operations. The manager and supervisor will determine when 24-hour operations begin. 24-hour operations include all Streets and Equipment Services staff, plus drivers from other departments as necessary to ensure ALL appropriate equipment is in use. Customer Response will begin 8-hr/day 7-day/week shifts when 24-hour operations are initiated.
- Prioritize snow plowing according to the established routes as identified on the City website.
- Apply sand to areas as needed for additional vehicle traction.
- Apply salt brine or rock salt to areas as needed to help “loosen” compacted snow to aid in plowing.
- Adjust equipment use and operations as appropriate to changing weather conditions. Throughout the event ensure all equipment that is appropriate to be used is put in service.
- Check material stockpiles at least once/day to ensure adequate salt and sand are always available for emergency response.

Level 4 – Extreme Cold Snow Event with temperatures forecast to be less than 28 degrees

- Public Works response is the same as level 3; however, additional measures must be taken since the City’s plows are much less effective during snow events with extreme cold temperatures. Plowing effectiveness is degraded since the snow compacts quickly and is much more difficult to remove; additionally, the effectiveness of salt brine degrades dramatically when temperatures drop below 25 degrees. During extreme cold temperature snow events, crews will apply rock salt, sand, or a rock salt/sand mixture directly to the compact snow and ice to improve vehicle traction. Crews may also apply salt brine to help loosen compact snow to improve plowing efficiency.

What can Citizens do?

- Be prepared! Prior to the event stock up on food, water, medications, blankets, etc.
- Before winter arrives make sure your vehicle is ready for any weather, including a properly fitting set of **chains**.
- Keep the sidewalks and pathways in front of your property clear of snow.
- Make sure your vehicle is not blocking access for our snowplows.
- Use the buddy system, call a friend for a ride if you are not comfortable driving in snow/ice conditions.
- Give the plow operators plenty of space!

Additionally, with over 300 lane miles of streets, it is important to understand that we will not be able to plow EVERY street in the City! Many of the residential streets are too narrow or too steep for our crews to safely plow.