

Tooele County - Snowplowing Practices

During a snowstorm, our snowplows are plowing around the clock. Crews respond to all storm events with 2 inches or greater of accumulated on paved roads. All service priority levels are plowed simultaneously, however during severe winter storms, main streets may take priority due to the higher volumes and speeds compared to residential streets and cul-de-sacs. If it has stopped snowing and 48 hours has passed and your road has not been plowed, please contact the Road Department at 435-843-3402 or send a Service Request. Visit www.tooeleco.org Roads Department and we'll respond as soon as possible to get it taken care of. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Plowing Levels of Service

- **First:** Streets considered to be the minimum network which must be kept open to provide transportation to Hospitals, Fire Stations, Police Stations, and Emergency Medical Services.
- **Second:** Major arterial and Minor arterial streets, hills, School bus routes for children with special needs and areas that snow drifts and makes the road impassable.
- **Third:** Drive thru streets and streets serving public transportation.
- **Fourth:** Residential streets.
- **Fifth:** Cul-De-Sacs
- **Sixth:** Unpaved surfaces that has homes that are occupied year-round or a gravel road that is public and leads to a year-round recreational destination.

Things to Be Aware of

Snow removal equipment doesn't stop as quickly as regular vehicles and is less maneuverable. Keep your distance and PLEASE, **do not ever attempt to pass a snowplow**. Plow drivers have been working long hours and appreciate safe and courteous drivers. Please help them help you.

Common Question & Answers

Question - Can the County remove the snow from my drive approach and/or my sidewalk?

Answer – All roads in Utah are designed for the snow to be plowed from the center of the road to the edge of the road. Because of this, snow will end up either in the shoulder, along the edge of the pavement or in the park strip area when there is curb and gutter. Unfortunately, everyone needs to dig out their own drive approach. Including the snowplow operators at the end of their shift. Snow removal on the sidewalks is also the responsibility of each homeowner.

Question - Can I park my car on the street during the winter?

Answer - It is illegal to leave a car parked on any County Street between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am starting on November 1st through March 31st. Maneuvering a snowplow around or



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near parked vehicles is very dangerous and increases the possibility of accidents and/or can cause property damage.

Tooele County Code/Chapter 6/ 6-6-9. *All night parking. No person shall park a vehicle on any street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day from November 1 through March 31. This provision does not apply to authorized emergency vehicles. (Ord. 96-29, 10/10/96).*

Question – Why did the snowplow driver just drive down my street and not plow the snow off the road?

Answer - The snowplow doesn't remove all packed snow from the pavement. It mostly removes the loose snow and slush from the top of the packed snow. Salt is needed to melt packed snow and ice. Salt is expensive and we do not salt all residential streets or cul-de-sacs. We do spread salt at intersections in residential areas as well as before stop signs, hills and sharp curves in the road.

Question – When will my street get plowed?

Answer – The plows are deployed to all service levels at the same time after 2 inches of snow has accumulated on the pavement and roads usually get plowed several times during a single storm event. When this happens can vary depending on when the snow starts to stick to the pavement. If it starts to stick at 1:00 am, the driver may have plowed your road while you were sleeping, and as it continues to snow, by the time you leave for work at 7:00 am, the road is covered with snow again. No need to call, the driver will return and will continue plowing the roads until all roads have been cleared and the storm has passed.

- Mains will be cleared within 8 hours after a storm ends.
- Residential Streets will be cleared within 48 hours after a storm ends.
- Cul-de-sacs will be cleared within 48 hours after a storm ends.

Tooele County would like to remind you to enjoy all the beautiful snow that Utah has to offer. It is the "Greatest Snow on Earth" but also remember, if you are a safe and courteous driver, you will always arrive to your destination.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation,

Jed A. Bell
Roads Department
Director

