

Ready, Set, Snow!... Snow Plowing Tips and Reminders

The Public Works Department of the Borough of Emmaus is dedicated to the safety of its residents. At times, snow removal can be a monumental task and our Department of Public Works employees work around the clock to keep the State and Borough routes open. In an effort to prepare our residents for impending snow storms, the Public Works Department wants you to know more about snow removal and answer your most frequently asked questions.



- 1. When will my street be plowed?** Depending on the severity of the snowstorm, roads that will be plowed first are: the roads with the highest traffic volume, steep hills, state roads, snow emergency routes, roads near emergency service facilities, and roads near public institutions. While the storm is occurring, one pass is made in each direction of every street. After this is complete, or it is determined that the storm is coming to an end, the pushing back phase of the excess snow will begin. This is when all streets are cleaned, curb-to-curb or to the shoulder of the road.



- 2. Should we move our cars from the street?** When a storm is forecasted, move vehicles to off-street parking

when possible and keep vehicles off the street until plowing is completed. Parked cars can cause both a hazard and hindrance to snow removal efforts. This allows plows to clear the entire roadway the first time through, making return trips unnecessary.

- 3. What about driveways and sidewalks?** When cleaning your street, the crews have no place to push the snow except to the side of the road. This creates the unavoidable problem of already cleaned sidewalks and driveways to be covered with snow. Residents and business owners should wait until the Borough trucks and equipment have completed their work before cleaning driveways, sidewalks, and vehicles. Snow from vehicles and sidewalks should not be deposited back into that portion of the street where snow has already been removed. Do not shovel snow from your driveways into the roadway. This practice is illegal under the state motor vehicle code and Borough Ordinance 303 and is also hazardous. Fines for violations range from \$25.00 to \$100.00. **Please do not shovel snow into the street!** Residents are responsible for the actions of anyone they may hire for removal.

- 4. If the Borough pushes snow back onto my sidewalk, who is responsible?** Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Borough Ordinance 302 requires that all sidewalks must be cleared of snow or ice accumulations within twenty-four (24) hours after each

precipitation ends. Failure to do so may result in fines for violations of the Ordinance. School bus stops must also be kept clear of snow and ice on the sidewalks.

- 5. What if my mailbox becomes covered with snow?**

Your mailbox and the access to it, for the U.S. Postal Service, is the responsibility of the resident. Again, because the crews have no place to put the snow, roadside mailboxes may become blocked. Heavy snow may damage mailboxes. This is not intentional, but may occur.



Please make sure your mailbox is sturdy and in good repair. The Borough will not be responsible for repairs to mailboxes placed within the legally defined rights-of-ways of the roads, unless they are actually struck by the snow removal equipment.

- 6. What should I do if my lawn or landscaping was damaged by the snowplow?** Any objects that are placed within the right-of-way by the property owner, including trees, shrubs or lawns are not the responsibility of the Borough in the case of plow damage.

Weather and snowstorms require patience and neighborhoods and businesses should work together. If practical, develop plans ahead of time in relation to where snow and ice will be stored. Contractors with plow equipment and residents with snow blowers should remain mindful of the direction snow and ice is removed from properties. Remember, we are all trying to achieve the same goal of keeping our roadways safe and traffic moving. During snow storms, SAFETY is the Borough's main concern.

PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE! Snow removal is tedious and a very time-consuming job. The Borough of Emmaus Public Works snow removal operators are human and work many hours under very difficult conditions to keep Borough residents safe. Please do not abuse them or threaten them or the Borough of Emmaus Police Department may be contacted. Travel should be limited during a snowfall and immediately after, unless absolutely necessary. Please do not call; unless it is urgent. When crews are removed from normal routes, it slows down the overall efforts. If a call warrants attention, the information will be dispatched and the crew will take care of the problem as soon as possible.



Please help the Borough in keeping your fire hydrants clear of snow. If you have a hydrant in your neighborhood, please adopt it this winter by keeping it clear of snow and ice so that it is readily accessible in an emergency. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!