



CITY OF RIFLE SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

11/14/2014

Plowing of snow from city streets typically starts within one hour **AFTER** there is **two inches or more accumulation of snow starting on city streets designated priority one routes, then progressing to priority two routes.**

The plowing of snow from Priority Three Routes will take place **ONLY after Priority One and Two have been completed** and weather has slowed enough to allow resources to be used on Priority Three Routes.

Snow is removed first, from busy arterial streets (Priority One) and second, from driving lanes of less busy collector streets (Priority Two). Lastly, from residential streets (Priority Three).

Accumulation of snow less than two inches may also require the use of snow plowing and salt applications but only on a case by case basis, example: Extreme Icy Conditions. The City's Public Works Department is responsible for evaluating and responding to all snow storm scenarios.

Ice Slicer is typically spread at busy intersections, hills, bridges, curves and other trouble spots, as needed.



The City's Snow and Ice Control Plan formally establishes the priorities as follows:

Priority One: Major arterials streets which carry the most traffic, plus important two lane thoroughfares. Examples include Railroad Avenue, Airport Road, 16th Street, W. 24th Street, Birch Avenue.

Priority Two: Heavily-used two lane collector streets and streets which serve commercial/industrial zones.

Priority Three: All remaining streets, including residential areas.

Typically, priority one and two snow routes will be routinely maintained except under extreme weather conditions. As a winter storm worsens, it may prove necessary to temporarily drop priority two routes in order to keep the higher priority streets open and well treated with de-icers.

Priority three streets are typically not routinely plowed and de-iced during the winter months because their lower traffic volumes and traffic speeds do not typically warrant the expense. Snow must accumulate to 4"-6" on priority three streets that are flat before the city will plow any snow from these streets.

However, on a case by case basis, when snow accumulations are such that residents may have difficulty driving to the nearest designated plow route, City or private contractors may be deployed to clear a path down the center third of each street. Snow depths, daytime temperatures and the time of year will be factored into the decision to plow or not plow residential streets.

Please note: All residents and business owners are responsible for opening up and clearing their own private driveways.

City residents are required by ordinance to clear snow from their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall's end. When residents fail to do this, school children and other pedestrians are forced to walk on either snow-packed or icy sidewalks, or out in the street itself. Either scenario may lead to serious injury.

To report an un-shoveled sidewalk, please call the City's Code Enforcement Division at 665-6500. After providing ample notice to the offending residence, the City will levy both a removal fee and a fine if it must clear such a walk.

When shoveling your walk, please pile the snow on your lawn, **NOT in the street**. Piling or blowing snow into a public street is not allowed by Municipal Code because it can present a potential traffic hazard, and can also block the flow of drainage. If your sidewalk is still icy after being shoveled, apply a de-icing agent available for purchase at most grocery, discount and hardware stores.

Remember--if City snowplows bury adjacent sidewalks during their street snow removal efforts, The City will remove this snow within 48 hours, at no expense to the affected residence.

**During times of unusually heavy snow fall, the City may also hire private contractors to assist with snow removal.*