

City prepared for snowfall, road salt is limited

The statewide shortage of road salt available for the winter season has been in the news over the past months. While many neighboring communities did not receive a bid for salt, Centerville did receive a bid to purchase and has received the salt. That's the good news. The downside is that this salt came at a significantly higher price than last year – in fact, almost double the cost. What this means is that while Centerville crews will continue to provide quality services, we'll also look for smarter ways to efficiently use the salt we have – all without compromising safety. When the forecast predicts an impending weather event crews will mobilize into action with the following plan:

Pre-treatment: Roads are pre-treated with brine, a salt water solution, to reduce the slick spots that form early. When placed on bare pavement ahead of a forecasted event, brine acts as a barrier between the road and the frozen precipitation and can alleviate plowing and/ or salting needs in small storms, which are events with less than one inch of snow. Centerville's plow trucks have tanks that carry brine that is sprayed on the rock salt as it leaves the bed of the truck and enters the spreader. Brine helps the salt melt faster thereby improving roadway conditions faster. For events greater than one inch, plowing will be done with salt--used efficiently.

Plowing procedures: Centerville is divided into six areas. During a winter storm event where snow and/ or ice are accumulating on roadways, trucks outfitted with plow blades and salt spreaders are dispatched to each of the areas.

- Priority streets - major roadways, hills, bridges and emergency routes - are cleared first.
- Collector streets within each area are the second priority. Once first and second priority streets are clear, crews begin clearing residential streets in each area. However, as long as it's still snowing, crews must focus on priority streets.
- Residential streets: While clearing residential areas, crews make one pass in and one pass out to provide for two-way traffic. After first and second priority roads are completely clear, crews will make a second pass through residential neighborhoods to clear streets more thoroughly. Depending on the severity of the storm, crews may leave residential areas at any time to concentrate on priority roadways. After this initial pass-through, it may be a day or longer before the crews get back to clear residential streets curb to curb.

Residents can help expedite snow and ice removal

- Remove parked vehicles from the streets to avoid being plowed in.

- Pile snow on the left side of your driveway (facing your house from the street). This will lessen the amount of snow City crews deposit as they can't avoid plowing snow across drive approaches.
- Don't plow snow from driveways onto public streets. This hampers the efforts of Public Works crews.

Sidewalks

Centerville's Municipal Code requires property owners clear snow and ice accumulations from sidewalks "within a reasonable time, which will ordinarily not exceed 12 hours."

Residents who live downtown or where children walk to and from school are asked to make special effort to clear sidewalks as soon as practical. City crews remove snow from sidewalks across City-owned properties and at gazebo bus stops.

For assistance with snow removal, call the City, 433-7151, for a snow removal resource list, including volunteers. For more information call Public Works, 428-4782.