



## CITY OF BARBERTON

### STREET DEPARTMENT

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### **STREET SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY**

This information provides a general overview of our snow and ice program, frequently asked questions, and winter tips, and also seeks community support in providing safe streets and sidewalks during snow and ice weather conditions.

The City of Barberton maintains approximately 125 miles of roadway in addition to municipal parking lots and alleys in snow removal and de-icing operations. The City also clears sidewalks at Lake Anna Park and the State Street and Robinson Avenue viaducts to accommodate safe passage for pedestrians.

The City of Barberton has 10 large dump trucks with plow & salt capabilities for plowing and/or salting operations divided into 5 routes (Downtown, North, South, East, and West). Also available, as conditions warrant, is a dedicated brine truck for pre-treatment applications and a medium-duty dump truck with plow & salt capabilities for use in parking lots, cul-de-sacs, and alleys along with two pick-up trucks and plows for snow removal in tighter places.

Many factors can determine the City's response to a snow or ice event, some of which may include the following:

- The temperatures before, during, and after the storm event.
- The amount of accumulated snowfall.
- The duration and intensity of the storm.
- The road surface temperature.
- The weather forecast for the following days after the initial event.
- Equipment breakdowns and turn-around time for repairs and maintenance.
- Manpower available in the event of sickness or fatigue monitored for the safety of the motoring public and equipment operators.
- Heavy traffic volume on roads.
- Emergency detours as a result of vehicle accidents or infrastructure issues such as water breaks, trees or poles knocked down etc.

## **Plan of Operation:**

- Pre-treatment utilizing brine with an anti-icing agent will be applied to bridges and hills if the forecasted event doesn't include rain transitioning to snow because of the dilution of material applied.
- When less than 2 inches of snow is forecasted it is considered a salting event but when the snow accumulation exceeds 2 inches the plowing operation begins.
- When the snow stops falling and after the main arterials have been cleared the plow trucks move onto secondary collector streets and then into residential areas and eventually alleys.
- City personnel will then begin a clean-up effort to clear the storm inlet grates and catch basin openings, clearing intersections, plowing designated walks and parking lots etc.

## **Black or Wet Road policy:**

Within several hours after the storm has ended it is the goal of the City to have the road surface exposed particularly on the main arterials and secondary collectors. Residential side streets and cul-de-sacs will only be sufficiently treated to ensure a passable road.

This policy is designed to reduce the harmful effects to the environment of de-icing materials while at the same time balancing public safety with the importance of traveling to a mobile society.

## **Parking Bans:**

While the City of Barberton does enforce parking bans during the winter months based on accumulations of snow exceeding 4 inches, the City requests the residents to please keep vehicles off the street when the warnings are issued, and the parking bans are in effect. This will help expedite the plowing operations and prevent damage to private vehicles. Parking Bans can only be put in place by the Safety Director.

## **Plow Damage:**

On streets that aren't curbed, the City of Barberton is not responsible for damaged lawns, sprinkler heads, downspout laterals, fences, trees, and shrubs located within the public right of way. The City will only fix or replace a mailbox if it is physically struck by the plow, **not as a result of heavy snow or slush thrown from the plow**, when clearing the roadway. Mailboxes and posts damaged by a direct strike from the snowplow will be fixed or replaced with a standard wooden post and black mailbox unless otherwise specified.

**Residents are urged to drive stakes with reflectors or reflectorized markers along the edge of lawns.**

City-operated plow vehicles are prohibited from being hired at the request of Business owners and residents to clear driveways and aprons.

### **Please Don't:**

Please don't plow snow into the street (you or a contractor). This not only increases the City's cost for snow plowing but also increases your liability if an accident occurs.

Please don't throw snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the street.

Please don't place rocks or large objects on the road edge. This may cause plow damage, vehicle damage, or operator injury.

### **Please Do:**

In the interest of your neighbor's and your own personal safety, please shovel out nearby fire hydrants.

Please help keep nearby catch basins and stormwater inlets clear of snow and ice to help mitigate street flooding during periods of heavy rains and snow melting periods.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **Q. Why does there seem to be a delay in plowing snow off the streets when the snow begins to fall?**

*A. After applying road de-icing materials specifically on bridges and hills, a reaction occurs creating a brine solution and preventing ice bonding to the pavement. The reaction time depends on several variables (i.e. traffic flow/volume, temperature etc.). This process helps in the plowing effort as the snow begins to accumulate for a plow event.*

#### **Q. Do some streets receive priority during a snowstorm?**

*A. Yes. Major (arterial) roads, hills, and bridges are a top priority followed by service to secondary arterial collector roads.*

#### **Q. Do sidewalks receive the same priority as streets?**

*A. No. The roads are a priority for public safety reasons. However, the school district maintains sidewalks within the school zone as well as school parking lots independent of the City road plowing operation.*

#### **Q. Why is the snow pushed into my driveway?**

*A. This situation is unavoidable. The plows remove as much snow as possible to allow for maximum clearance of the roadway and to allow for mail delivery and allow for emergency vehicles to maneuver.*

#### **Q. Why does my street always seem like the last one plowed?**

*A. Traffic volume on main arterials and secondary collector streets is one of the factors determining the order in snow removal operations. Although you may feel that your street is the last to be plowed, our main objective is to make the roads safe for all drivers during snowstorms. Please be patient.*

**Q. Who determines the closing or delayed opening of schools during a snowstorm?**

*A. The School Administrators.*

**Winter Tips:**

- Pay close attention to weather forecasts heed warning advice and take necessary safety precautions.
- Freezing rain and wet snow create the most slippery road conditions.
- When snow, sleet, or freezing rain has been forecasted please stay off the roads, if possible.
- For storm information concerning school or business closings please tune into local radio and television stations as well as utilize social media if applicable.
- For information relating to snow parking bans and other important notices, please sign up for community alerts through NIXLE at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) or text Barberton to 888777 to register. You can also follow the City of Barberton on Twitter @barbertoncity.

For further information on the snow operations policy for the City of Barberton please call 330-848-6741

The City of Barberton would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter season.