



# Snow Emergency

## CLEARING THE STREETS IN THREE DAYS

Minneapolis' priority is to keep city streets drivable during the snow season. That has Public Works crews busy when severe winter weather hits Minneapolis. Clearing our streets is a big job, and it requires cooperation from the public in order to fully plow the streets. The goals are the same for everyone: to have well-plowed streets and for all drivers to follow the parking rules and avoid tickets and tows during Snow Emergencies.

To keep roads drivable, Minneapolis' Public Works crews salt, sand and plow snow on Minneapolis' more than 1,000 miles of streets and parkways whenever it's needed, not just when Snow Emergencies are declared. When winter weather makes driving difficult, the City has crews working as needed to keep streets open for drivers and emergency crews.

A Snow Emergency is a set of parking rules and restrictions for the orderly movement of cars so crews can plow the full width of streets when needed. A Snow Emergency will be declared no later than 6 p.m. The parking restrictions begin at 9 p.m. on that day.

### DAY 1 - 9 p.m. to 8 a.m.

- No parking on streets designated as Snow Emergency routes until the street is fully plowed.
- Drivers can park on both sides of streets that are not Snow Emergency routes.

### DAY 2 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Drivers can park on Snow Emergency routes and the odd side of other streets.
- No parking on the even side of non-Snow Emergency routes.
- No parking on either side of Parkways.

### DAY 3 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Drivers can park on Snow Emergency routes, the even side of other streets and both sides of Parkways.
- No parking on the odd side of non-Snow Emergency routes.

## TICKETING AND TOWING

Residents do a good job of following the Snow Emergency parking rules (about 95 percent of vehicles are parked correctly). However, during a typical Snow Emergency, some 8,000 vehicles are ticketed and around 1,500 vehicles or more get towed to the Impound Lot.

Contrary to what many people assume, Snow Emergencies are not moneymakers for the City. The net cost of enforcement is expensive, so it's in everyone's interest to help people follow the parking rules and avoid a ticket and tow. That's why Minneapolis offers residents, workers and visitors a number of tools to help them learn when Snow Emergencies are declared, and what to do when they are.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Minneapolis has 1,100 miles of streets and parkways. Plowing both sides of those roads is the same as plowing a path to Seattle and back again!
- Minneapolis has some 3,700 alleys, totaling about 400 miles. That means we have more miles of alleys to plow than most suburbs have streets.
- The City has about 100 snow-fighting vehicles available for snow and ice control.
- Minneapolis currently has more than 30,000 subscribers receiving Snow Emergency email alerts.
- Every Minneapolis household (and there are about 170,000 of them) receives a brochure in the mail that explains all the facts about Snow Emergencies and winter parking rules. It includes information in English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, Vietnamese and Lao.
- The City may place some 100,000 telephone calls each Snow Emergency using an automated voice messaging service.



## SPREADING THE WORD

The public demands quality plowing, so the City aggressively enforces Snow Emergency parking restrictions. To help people comply with the rules and avoid the inconvenience and expense of tickets and tows, the City has many ways it communicates about Snow Emergencies. And since Minneapolis is a diverse City, most of our materials are available in several languages other than English:

- **Snow Emergency telephone hotline**  
If the snow is flying, (612) 348-SNOW is the number to call to find out if a Snow Emergency has been declared. If there is a Snow Emergency, a recorded message will also tell you about the parking restrictions in effect. Callers can select recorded messages in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.
- **Automated phone calls**  
An automated voice messaging service is used to send Snow Emergency telephone alerts. More than 100,000 calls are placed to listed telephone numbers. People can also sign up to receive their voice message in Spanish, Somali, or Hmong. Drivers who want to add their cell, work or other phone numbers to the call list should go to the City's Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow) and click on "stay informed."
- **City Cable videos**  
Instructional videos are broadcast on City Cable in English Spanish, Somali and Hmong during Snow Emergencies, and throughout the snow season, to help people understand the rules.
- **Snow Emergency brochure**  
At the beginning of each snow season, a Snow Emergency brochure is mailed to each of Minneapolis' 170,000 households. This mailing includes information in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Oromo, Vietnamese and Laotian.
- **City's Web site**  
[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow), is the most comprehensive source for all Snow Emergency information in English, as well as Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Oromo, Vietnamese and Laotian. The Web site also features a useful interactive "Street Lookup" Web tool where drivers can enter an address and find out where to park in their neighborhood during a Snow Emergency.

- **E-mail and text message notifications**  
Automatic e-mail notifications are sent to more than 30,000 people who have signed up to receive e-alerts when a Snow Emergency is declared. Drivers can also sign up to receive text messages on their cell phones when there's a Snow Emergency. To sign up, go to the City's Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow) and click on "stay informed."
- **Social media**  
Snow Emergency profiles on Facebook and Twitter send out status updates and "tweets" to fans and followers whenever a Snow Emergency is declared.

## PARKING DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES

Other things to know about parking during a Snow Emergency:

- **SnOasis parking ramps**  
Specific ramps at the University of Minnesota offer free or low cost off-street parking during the first night of a Snow Emergency. There are two "SnOasis" parking ramps at the university that offer alternative parking options during the first phase of a Snow Emergency. Look for links to SnOasis Parking on the City Web site.
- **Park after it's plowed!**  
Once the plows have come by DURING the appropriate phase of a Snow Emergency and fully plowed the street, people may resume parking there.

## MORE INFORMATION

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