

# OWOSSO

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

### WINTER SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PROCEDURES

The City of Owosso's Department of Public Works and Underground Utilities' goal is to provide the citizens of Owosso streets safe for driving using efficient snow and ice control practices during severe weather conditions.

Starting in October, all winter snow and ice removal equipment are checked out with any necessary repairs made, including department employee training, for the upcoming winter season.

The 17 members of the cross-trained Public Works and Underground Utilities Departments are responsible during each snow storm for snow and ice control of approximately 165 lane miles of city streets, 14 city parking lots, and all city-owned sidewalk, in addition to parking lots and downtown snow removal hauling, after each snowfall of significant accumulation. The department is equipped with 5 ten-yard tandem dump trucks, 4 single axle salt trucks with v-box salt spreaders, 3 single axle five-yard dump trucks (all with underbody scraper blades), 2 front end loaders with a snow bucket attachment, 5 4x4, ¾ ton pickups with attached front end blades. We also have 2 road graders that are used during heavy snowstorms. In addition, the department has storage capacity to hold a stockpile of 1,600 tons of deicing material.

All efforts are utilized by the department to keep deicing material usage to a minimum by applying it at a sensible rate to assure cost effectiveness and minimize environmental impact.

The City of Owosso's winter snow and ice control procedures are as follows:

1. Primary Routes – All state trunklines (M-52, M-21 & M-71) are considered the routes that must be kept open to provide a major transportation system covering the major traffic volume streets. This also provides access to hospitals, police station, fire station, etc.
2. Secondary Routes – Major streets in the residential areas that provide access to all schools, bus routes and feed into the primary routes.
3. Residential Routes – Local streets and alleys in the residential areas which provide access to primary and secondary routes. Stop signs, hills, curves, and dangerous intersections will be plowed and deiced only with a snowfall of 2 inches or more resulting in slick, slushy conditions.

The following is the department's response policy to snow and ice conditions by category:

Category 1 – 1 inch or less of snow resulting in icy conditions throughout the city. All equipment in service is to apply deicer to all primary trunklines and major streets, plus hazardous stops and hills.

Category 2 – 2 inches of snow resulting in slick, slushy conditions throughout the city. All equipment in service is to plow and apply deicer to trunklines and major streets, plus hazardous stops and hills.

Category 3 – 2 inches or more of snow causing blizzard conditions. All equipment in service is to plow and apply deicer to all trunklines and major streets as snow and wind continues. When storm subsides, local streets and alleys will be plowed and deiced.

Category 4 – Major snow storm in excess of 8 inches causing blizzard conditions and closures. All trucks, graders, loaders, and wing plows in service are to keep trunklines and major streets open. Local streets and alleys will be plowed and deiced when the storm ends.

The department's snow and ice control work does not stop at the end of deicing and plowing. Post storm work can carry on for days and sometimes a week after a major storm. Snow has to be hauled from the downtown area, trucks and equipment have to be cleaned and, if necessary, repairs made. City sidewalks have to be cleared of snow and deiced. Storm reports have to be made calculating amounts and costs of materials used, number of lane miles plowed and deiced, review of problems encountered with recommendations for future improvements.

The public can be most helpful during winter snowfalls by:

1. Complying with city laws and regulations.
2. Removing vehicles from city streets during snow falls (vehicles are prohibited from overnight parking on city streets from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m.)
3. Waiting until after streets are plowed before cleaning driveway openings.
4. Clearing sidewalks and crosswalks per the city sidewalk snow and ice removal rules.
5. Not shoveling or pushing snow out into the streets creating hazardous conditions to other motorists.
6. Clearing snow from fire hydrants, which is helpful to firefighters after heavy snowfalls.

The City of Owosso's Public Works and Underground Utilities Departments continue to explore and experiment, always searching for better methods, equipment and materials to use to improve the departments' winter snow and ice removal program.

For more information, citizens can call the Public Service office at (989) 725-0550.