

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY CITY OF CLEAR LAKE

The City of Clear Lake snow removal crew is responsible for efficient and timely removal of snow from city streets. A snow emergency will commence for a two-inch minimum of snow in which plowing will begin once snowfall has stopped or has substantially subsided. Main Street Business District will be windrowed into the center of the street and hauled to a separate location to allow daily traffic to run. Crews will then move to residential streets. This procedure may change depending on the amount of snowfall and timing.

During snow removal efforts it is important to park vehicles, trailers, etc., off the street until plowing operations are completed. The City of Clear Lake will not be responsible for vehicles parked on the street that are isolated by snow accumulation due to plowing operations. Vehicles parked in the streets or alleys during a snow event are subject to ticketing and towing per City Ordinance 7-1-4. All garbage and recycling containers should be placed behind the curb or in residential driveways at all times.

The City of Clear Lake urges residents to be extremely cautious when snow removal and sanding operations are underway. Stay well behind the snow plow. A safe distance of at least 200 feet (four car lengths) is suggested. Because of the size of the snow plows, operators cannot see directly behind their trucks and equipment.

As a reminder, it is against city ordinance to throw snow into the street when clearing driveways and sidewalks in residential areas. Snow removed from private property should not be stacked or stockpiled over the ends of culverts or catch basins. Doing so could cause flooding and/or property damage. Cleared snow should be piled so as not to interfere with or obstruct motorist visibility on streets and alleys.

Alleys – Alleys will be plowed after residential streets are plowed, provided staff is available and equipment is operational. In the Spring and early Fall, there will be times when gravel alleys and gravel roads will be soft due to lack of frost. To protect and preserve the alleys and roads, they may not be plowed at that time.

Driveways – Responsibility of driveways shall rest with individual property owners. This includes the clearing of additional snow that may accumulate each time the City plows go by.

Salt and Sand - Sand and salt shall be applied to the street surface in such quantities so as to provide a level of skid resistance that is consistent with standards normally experienced on city streets during the snow and ice season. A bare pavement policy is not possible at all times during the winter months. Blanket sanding of general snow pack on residential streets is not practical. Spot sanding will occur after plowing operations, if manpower and equipment are available.

Streets will be spot sanded to provide skid resistance and traction consistent with area standards in accordance with the following priorities:

- Hills
- Controlled intersections
- School zones
- Commercial and Industrial
- Residential

Mailboxes – City crews will make every attempt to plow as close as practical to the curb to allow for mail delivery in those areas with mailboxes adjacent to the street. It is the responsibility of homeowners to clear the snow from around mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

If a mailbox is damaged, the City should be contacted as soon as possible. The City Superintendent will assess the damage. If physical contact between the snow plow and the mailbox occurred, the City will repair or replace the mailbox or post with a like or similar mailbox or post. If it is determined that the weight of the snow caused the damage, the City will not assume responsibility for repair or replacement of the mailbox or post. In all instances of damaged mailboxes during snow plowing efforts by the City, the Sheriff's Office must be notified and a report filed.

Fire Hydrants – As a courtesy, residents should clear snow from fire hydrant located adjacent to your property. This is good practice should an emergency exist where the local Fire Department would need to utilize the fire hydrant.

Boulevard Sod – It shall be the policy of the City to repair any damage to sod where curbs are in place. Street maintenance will repair the damage by relaying the turned up pieces or placing black dirt and grass seed.

Landscaping – will not be repaired by the City. The City assumes no responsibility for damages incurred as the result of snow removal and ice control activities, except that only the sod on City owned right-of-way will be repaired or replaced if it is removed due to snow plowing.

The City assumes no responsibility for damage to underground lawn sprinkling systems, exterior lighting systems, underground fencing, and similar landscaping installed in the City owned right-of-way.

Effective March 10, 2025