



City of Gig Harbor Snow and Ice Control Policy and Procedures

Introduction

With conditions and resources permitting, the city will work to clear snow from lanes of vehicle travel on city-owned thoroughfares as quickly as possible. Clearing snow from lanes of travel on city-wide arterials and collectors will be performed before shoulders and parking stalls in city right-of-way. When clearing snow from city streets, we will work to minimize, when practical, wind row piles in front of driveways and pedestrian crosswalk access ramps.

The goal of the City of Gig Harbor is to provide snow and ice control and removal to best serve movement through and around the city. The Public Works staff maintains 80 lane miles of roadway. In the event of two or more inches of accumulation of snow, crews will focus on three routes. It will be the responsibility of each crew to do the best possible job within their respective route. The weather forecasts are also monitored closely. In the event that we are treating for ice only, we will apply anti-icing solution to these routes where needed, provided salt brine is available, focusing on hills and intersections. We use a liquid salt brine solution that is applied by a truck mounted tank and covers the roadway to help deter freezing.

Equipment

The City of Gig Harbor uses:

- (1) 2012 F550 ¾ yard dump truck, equipped with a V-box sander and 9-foot plow blade
- (1) 1999 5-yard dump truck, equipped with a 10-foot remotely or cab-operated plow and a rear sanding unit
- (1) 2001 5-yard dump truck, equipped with a 10-foot remotely or cab-operated plow and a rear mounted sanding unit
- (1) 2008 Ford F-350 4x4, equipped with an 8-foot plow and sander box spreader
- (1) 1998 Chevy 3500 equipped with a 500-gallon tank that is capable of applying liquid salt brine
- (1) 10,000-gallon storage tank to house liquid salt brine at the Public Works facility
- At the Operations facility, spare parts, chains, replacement bits for the plows and bags of salt are also on hand.



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Procedure

During normal working hours, the Superintendent or his designee will make the decision to perform anti-icing or sanding and plowing. After hours, and at times during regular hours, coordination between Public Works and the Police Department is a critical element in successful snow and ice control. After hours, the Police Department will call the on-call phone if the roads require attention - 253-530-6888.

In the event of a severe snow storm, the City of Gig Harbor will focus on three primary routes to best serve the public. After hours, the crews will meet at the Public Works shop located on Skansie Avenue to receive their route assignment and begin their work. We have seven staff members with commercial driver's licenses capable of operating the 5-yard dump trucks. Typically, we have a co-worker or supervisor in the passenger seat taking care of loading the trucks, radio communications, routes and paperwork. This is also much safer. At times when Public Works is requiring long shifts as well as truck inspections, one of two mechanics will be called upon to perform repairs and assist in truck inspections.



Routes

There are three routes or zones:

- Red
- Blue
- Green

The crews will start at the Public Works facility on Skansie Avenue.

Red 10-foot Plow:

- Leave Shop-north on Skansie
- Bujacich (Fire Department)
- Sehmel Drive
- Burnham to SR 16
- Woodhill to city limits
- Sehmel to Peacock Hill on Borgen
- Harbor Hill
- Canterwood to city limits (hospital frontage)
- Burnham from round-about to North Harborview (freeway access)
- Burnham from Harborview to Prentice
- Prentice (school)
- Fenimore from Prentice to Peacock Hill
- Peacock Hill from North Harborview to city limits
- North Harborview
- Vernhardson from North Harborview to city limits



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Blue 10-foot Plow:

- Leave Shop-south on Skansie to Rosedale (school) (Chapel Hill-possible shelter)
- Rosedale to Hunt on Skansie
- Hunt to Grandview on Wollochet
- Hunt from Wollochet to 38th
- From Hunt on 38th to city limits (school)
- 56th to Olympic
- Pt. Fosdick from 56th to city limits (medical facilities)
- Briarwood (connector)
- On Olympic to Soundview (freeway access)
- Soundview from Olympic to North Harborview (truck route)
- Hollycroft from Soundview to Reid Road

Green 8-foot Plow 4x4:
(great for the steep grades)

- Leave Shop-south on Skansie to Harborview on Rosedale
- Stinson from Harborview to Wollochet
- Pioneer from Harborview to Wollochet (freeway)
- Grandview from Soundview to street end (Police services and City services)
- Edwards
- Kimball from Pioneer to Soundview

This truck will also assist in steep slopes throughout the City during emergency conditions.

After routes are clear and snow has stopped, crews will fall back to side streets and/or collectors within their routes.

The Public Works Crew will do their best to keep the roads clear. However, we must remember freeway closures, cars that cannot proceed, as well as extremely bad weather will slow operations and make tasks more difficult to complete.

How can the Public help?

- Be patient, snow removal takes time.
- Drive safely and have appropriate tires on your vehicle.
- Do not drive until you have properly cleared windows of obstructions and replaced worn windshield wipers.
- Park your car off the street whenever you can. This is important for snow removal operations.
- Property owners are responsible for clearing their own driveways -- our priorities will be the three routes mentioned above.
- Winterize your vehicle and plan ahead.
- Don't drive unless you have to.

