

Columbia Public Works Snow and Ice Control Program

The average snowfall for Middle Tennessee is around 10 inches spread over 4 to 5 months. Although snow and ice is not a major problem compared to other regions of the country, snow or ice storms have the same effect on the motoring public in any areas where they occur.

The Public Work Department is charged with the task of clearing streets during snow, and/or ice emergencies. Snow or ice storm operations involve many hours of work no matter how small. City crews usually work around the clock to clear streets hours after the last flake has fallen.

In order to clear streets in a timely fashion, plowing or salting must be done in an orderly fashion. Trucks that jump from area to area, usually achieve nothing, but guarantees that some areas will be missed. Columbia Public Works Department uses the following system of priorities during snow, or ice emergencies:

Priority #1

Priority 1 streets includes all major thoroughfares first, and then collector streets. This system of de-icing provides a treated or plowed street within a few blocks of all residential streets in the City. During snow, and/or ice storms these streets are continuously cleared during the storm.

Priority #2

Priority 2 streets are all residential streets in the City. When all major thoroughfares and collectors streets are cleared, Street Division trucks will begin in residential areas (Residential snow and ice removal began last year, and is not a service normally provided in most cities in Tennessee).

Additional measures

Bridges and hazardous hills will be pre-treated before storms occur for extra safety.

Remember

Not everyone can be first. Your street will eventually get done before the snow or ice operations have ended.

Since our new goal is to treat all streets in the city, your street will be treated eventually during the storm.

Often it takes more than one pass on some streets to clear them.

During significant snow storms, plow trucks will make one pass in the center of the street in residential areas. This gives a clear lane to drive and prevents piles of snow at the end of drive ways.