

SNOW PLOWING FAQS

WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG FOR THE STREETS TO BE PLOWED?

Following a snow event, it may take the city 12 hours or more to complete snow removal for all city streets, alleys, and parking lots. Oftentimes, snow removal operations carry over multiple days to complete all plowing, loading, and hauling tasks. All of the public works staff plus the Mayor and other operators are out in the early morning hours and work 12-24 hours straight. They also continue to do all the other city work required. Our crews work systematically to clear all streets; however, routes may not be identical due to snowfall amounts, staffing changes, current conditions, parked cars, mechanical issues, ect. Please be patient as we work to clear your streets and alleys.

HOW MANY PLOWS DOES THE CITY HAVE

The city utilizes 1 wheel loader, 1 mini-wheel loader, 1 motor grader, 1 plow truck, and 1 sander truck to complete snow removal operations for city streets and alleys.

MY ROAD IS ICY. CAN YOU SEND SOMEONE OUT TO APPLY SAND OR SALT

The city is constantly monitoring roadway conditions during and after snowfall events; Including Oakes Police Officers. Citizens are advised to slow down and drive to road conditions, not the posted speed limit. Citizens should also be aware that if the temperature is less than 15 degrees, salt is not typically effective in melting ice.

CAN I PUSH SNOW FROM MY DRIVEWAY INTO OR ACROSS THE STREET

No. City ordinance 3.0210 states that snow or ice shall not be moved to or discarded upon the city street.

CAN YOU LIFT THE PLOW OR OTHERWISE NOT DEPOSIT SO MUCH SNOW IN MY DRIVEWAY?

Snowplow operations have little control over how much snow is deposited in your driveway. Lifting the plow would deposit a large pile of snow in the street and turning the plow for every driveway is not feasible and would result in a similar situation with snow being moved into the street.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SNOW REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS?

Snow removal from sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner located adjacent to the sidewalk. City Ordinance 3.0210 requires snow and ice to be removed within 24 hours after snow or ice has ceased to fall. If snow is not removed in this time period, the city can cause the snow to be removed and bill the adjacent property owner for the work.