

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

November 1, 2011

“Snow Removal”



Although the weather so far this fall has been mild, snowfall is a guarantee in Northeast Nebraska. City of Norfolk Streets Director Jim Koch and his staff are well aware of that fact. The snow will come and they're ready for it.

Koch reminds city residents that the city administrator will declare a snow emergency if a lot of snow is falling or has been forecast. A snow emergency will be announced on local radio stations and means that all residents will need to park on the even side of the street. A way to remember which side of the street to park on is that no one should be at "odds" with the city snow emergency ordinance. Tickets will be issued to owners of vehicles that do not move their vehicles to the even side of the street during snow emergencies and in some cases, the vehicles may be towed with the expense of towing paid by the vehicle owner. There are also emergency snow routes where no vehicles are allowed to park on either side of the street. These routes enable police and fire vehicles to have access to within three blocks of any home in Norfolk.

The first routes in the city to be cleared will be the 14 miles of snow emergency routes. Depending on the amount of snow and wind

accompanying it, the clearing of these routes may take up to eight hours. The next area of the city to be cleared of

snow will be the downtown business area. Koch emphasizes that this also takes time as all of the snow in the 20 blocks of the downtown must be loaded into trucks and hauled away.

When the downtown is cleared, the snowplows will start clearing the residential areas which are divided into ten different routes. The decision of which route the snowplows will clear first is made by observing a rotation system. Some routes that get cleared first on one storm will be cleared later after the next storm. This system provides that every citizen at some time will have the snow cleared from their street first after one snowfall and later after another snowfall. The rotation sequence can be found on the city's website at http://ci.norfolk.ne.us/street/sequence_of_a_residential_plowing.htm.

There are 12 snowplow operators, four front-end loader drivers and two motor patrols that are used to clear Norfolk streets of snow. The city's policy is that they will not start cleaning the main routes of Norfolk until the snow has stopped falling.

The snow removal staff will begin moving snow at 2:00 a.m. so that most of it is cleared before people are up and on the roads which would be at least by 6:00 a.m.

There are 144 miles of city streets to be cleared and it may take more than one day to complete the job according to the amount of snow that has fallen, the wind that accompanies it and the number of vehicles that are in the way of the snowplows.

"We ask that city residents be aware of snow emergency declarations and park their vehicles on the even side of the streets accordingly. It makes our job easier and the streets of Norfolk safer when the snow is cleared in a timely and efficient manner," Koch said.