

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

[www.ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us)

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## “The City of Norfolk is Ready for Snow”

It’s been a mild fall but snow is almost guaranteed sometime in the next few months in Northeast Nebraska. Jim Dooley, Operations Manager for the City of Norfolk, said the City’s street division is ready for it.

“Like everyone else, we’re hoping it’s a mild winter. Even so, it’s a good idea for citizens to prepare for winter driving and be aware of the city’s plan for dealing with snow removal,” Dooley said.



He will present the snow removal plan to the City Council at Monday’s meeting. Each year, the plan is updated as to what streets won’t be salted or if there’s a change in equipment or staff assigned to the various routes.

The City’s snow removal plan entails that since the streets can’t be adequately cleared when vehicles are parked on the roadway a snow emergency is declared by the City Administrator Shane Weidner when a lot of snow is accumulating or has been forecast. The snow emergency will be announced on local radio stations which means that all residents need to then park their vehicles on the even numbered side of the street so that more of the street can be cleared.

Dooley warned that tickets will be issued to owners of the vehicles that remain parked on the odd numbered side and those 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 clear 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. Those routes are listed on the City’s website at [http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/Street/what\\_is\\_a\\_snow\\_emergency.htm](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/Street/what_is_a_snow_emergency.htm)

If more than two inches of snow has fallen, snowplow operators will start clearing the streets at 2:00 am when traffic is light. Dooley said it’s hoped that most of the snow is cleared by 6:00 am on the snow routes before many people head to work. Depending on the amount of snow and wind accompanying it, the clearing of these routes may take longer than that.

Early in the morning two motor graders move the snow in the downtown business area into rows. Around 3:30 am. the snow is blown into dump trucks with a city snow blower and hauled away by a private contractor. Dooley emphasized that this takes hours of work as all of the snow in the 20 blocks downtown must be loaded into trucks and hauled away.

When the snow routes are complete, the snowplow operators will begin clearing the residential areas which are divided into 10 different sections. Each section is divided into two or three areas. Plows are sent to all 10 sections, however the selection of which areas will be plowed first is made by observing a rotation system. Some areas that get cleared first after one storm will

get cleared later after the next snowfall. The rotation sequence can be found at [www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/street/sequence\\_of\\_a\\_residential\\_plowing.htm](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/street/sequence_of_a_residential_plowing.htm)

There are currently 12 snowplows operators, four front-end loader drivers and two motor patrols that are used to clear Norfolk streets. The policy is that the snow removal equipment operators will not start clearing the snow until it stops falling.

“With 144 miles of Norfolk streets, it requires patience and cooperation from citizens. It makes the job of removing the snow and the streets safer for everyone when people are aware of snow emergency alerts and move their vehicles to the even side of the streets,” Dooley said.