

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

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“Importance of Snow Emergency Alerts”

After an early February snowfall in Norfolk, at least 250 citations were issued by City of Norfolk Police officers to people who had left their vehicles parked on the odd side of the street. A Snow Emergency had been declared requiring that vehicles be parked on the even side.

“It’s a safety issue. We need our emergency vehicles to be able to drive within at least three blocks from every home in Norfolk. It’s expedient that parked vehicles are moved off emergency routes and off the odd sides of the rest of the City’s streets so that our street crews can more efficiently clear the snow,” said Police Chief Bill Mizner.

City Administrator Shane Weidner and Operations Manager Jim Dooley look at snow and wind predictions and conditions before deciding to issue a Snow Emergency. They inform City of Norfolk Police dispatchers to alert the



news media including local radio stations, the newspaper and cable TV about the parking restrictions to be put into effect. Those people who are signed up to receive the City’s Emergency Text Alerts receive a text on their cell phones telling of the Snow Emergency. Notice of the emergency is also posted on the City’s Facebook page and Twitter account.

“We do all we can to get the message out to the public and we still have people say they didn’t know about the parking restrictions. A good practice is for people to park on the even side of the street when there’s snow predicted. That way

they don’t have to go out in the middle of the snowstorm and move their vehicle once they find out there’s a Snow Emergency in effect,” Mizner said.

Those who know they will be out of town will want to move their vehicles either off the street or to the even side of the street in preparation of a Snow Emergency declaration.

“It’s not easy to clear 144 miles of streets and the job is much more difficult when there are vehicles on both sides of the street to have to plow around. It’s our hope that more people are aware of Snow Emergencies and as a community working together we can get our roads passable as soon as possible,” Mizner said.

City ordinance states that fines for parking in a restricted area during a Snow Emergency are \$50. State law provides for all fines that the City collects to go to the Norfolk Public School District.

For more information about the Snow Emergency Plan go to the City website at http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/Street/snow_removal_and_sanding.htm

SNOW OPERATIONS

Snow Number – 402-844-2299

- ❖ A snow emergency is declared by City officials when necessary for public safety and to make snow removal in the City more timely and cost efficient.
- ❖ During snow emergencies parking is allowed **only on the even side of the street** in residential areas and **not at all on emergency snow routes** which are the main arterial routes in the City. Citations will be given to those whose vehicles remain on the odd side of the residential streets or along an emergency snow route. Vehicles in violation may be towed.
- ❖ Snow emergencies will be announced via local radio, cable TV, the City's Facebook page (NorfolkNE), the City's Twitter feed (#NorfolkNE), local newspaper and via subscribed text alerts. (To subscribe for a City Emergency Text Alert to be sent to your cellphone go to [www. ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us) and click on Signup for Norfolk Alerts.)
- ❖ You can call 402-844-2299 to hear if a snow emergency has been declared.
- ❖ A snow emergency will remain in effect until an announcement that it's cancelled.
- ❖ Snow removal begins upon accumulation of two inches of snow and when the wind dies down. Snowplows will start removing snow at 2:00 am.
- ❖ The City's 12 truck plows are first dispatched to clear the 16 miles of emergency routes. The City's downtown area is a top priority as snow must be hauled away.
- ❖ The City is divided into eleven sections with each section divided in up to three areas and each area is in rotation as to which is cleared first.
- ❖ Altogether the City has 144 miles of streets and 20 miles of alley to clear.
- ❖ Heavily traveled intersections and bridges are first priorities for deicing with emergency routes and other streets subsequently deiced as needed.

