

Liz Wallace
Communications Manager

lwallace@ci.norfolk.ne.us

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Safety Point – SNOW REMOVAL TIPS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

In Norfolk, it is the responsibility of the owner and/or occupant of real estate to remove snow and/or ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after the precipitation has ended. With the impending winter storm, public safety officials are asking for assistance from citizens to help keep Norfolk safe by providing these snow removal tips for residents and business owners.

Keep Snow Piles Out of the Sight Triangle

As more and more snow is forecasted, business owners and residents need to be aware of height restrictions when piling snow in sight triangles at street intersections.

A sight triangle is formed by two roads, or rights-of-way, and a third line which must be kept clear of obstructions such as large piles of snow. On all corner lots, a visual clearance area is required within 25 feet of the intersection of street lines. In this triangle, piles of snow can be no higher than three feet from the top of the curb.

When snow is piled higher than three feet high within sight triangles, it causes significant sight hazards to motorists and pedestrians. By keeping snow piles three feet and lower in these areas, it helps keeps everybody safe.

Clear Snow from Fire Hydrants

In an effort to help the Fire Division, the Public Safety Department is asking citizens with fire hydrants on their property to clear the snow from them so they are visible and accessible, or to report the location of a covered hydrant to the Fire Division.

“We are extremely grateful to those kind citizens who are able to assist us in cleaning snow around their fire hydrant,” said Norfolk Fire Chief, Scott Cordes. “We readily recognize that not all citizens can do this. If you are aware of a hydrant that is in need of clearing, you can call the fire station at 402-844-2050 to report the location of a covered hydrant and it will be uncovered when time allows.”

By uncovering fire hydrants from drifts of snow, it allows firefighters to get to work right away on putting out a structure fire. The goal is for enough snow to be cleared away, about three feet around and with a clear path

to the street, that the emergency responders know right where the hydrant is and can easily attach the hose in the event of an emergency.

The Public Safety Department wants to thank citizens for their support and cooperation during this upcoming snow event. Your willingness to assist with these tasks is appreciated.

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