



City of Forest Grove Winter Road Operations

Flooding, wind, freezing rain, snow. Weather conditions that create dangerous driving conditions and concern about access to work, school, and business.

The City of Forest Grove coordinates winter road operations with ODOT and with the neighboring county road departments and municipal public works agencies through the Cooperative Public Agencies of Washington County.

Who to call?

To request help or report a road hazard:

- Life-threatening - emergency response – 911
- Hazardous road conditions – non – emergency response – 503-629-0111
- State highways – Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) – 503-547-8100
- All streets in the City – 503-992-3258
- All other roads in the unincorporated urban rural Washington County – Road Operations – 503-846-ROAD

Priorities

The City of Forest Grove is committed to maintaining our street system to ensure the safety of all roadway users, and operating the street department in a cost effective and environmentally responsible manner.

The Cities street department maintains about 76 miles of roadway from urban arterials to dead- end gravel roads. The City does not have sufficient operational resources to inspect all roadways for weather-related hazards either during, after, or in anticipation of a storm, and may not have resources to correct all known hazardous conditions.

To make the best use of our resources, we identified **priority routes** (map) that provide access to critical facilities, emergency services and trunk highways (47 & 8). The streets identified as emergency routes receive attention first. After the emergency routes, the remaining arterials and collectors will be serviced. Residential and local access streets will be serviced **only** when arterial and collector routes have been cleared and maintained.

Operations Plan

Response

Weather forecasts issued by the National Weather Service or other reporting agencies are considered to determine an appropriate response to a storm or other emergency event.

If an event develops during regular working hours (Monday through Friday, 7a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), the Operations Supervisor will dispatch personnel and equipment as needed, under the direction of the Operations Superintendent. If an event develops outside regular working hours, the on-call personnel are responsible to notify the Operation Supervisor for calling in additional staff and equipment and to consider special circumstances. The Operations Supervisor has discretion to consider the prudent use of public resources, and apparent degree of potential hazard in making special exceptions to plans and guidelines. During extended events, Street Operations may operate on a 24-hour basis.

Flooding

High water warning signs are posted when water covers part of a traffic lane, but the hazard can be avoided without creating a danger to traffic. **Road Closure** barricades are set up when traffic lanes in one direction are covered with water or when water is flowing across the roadway creating dangerous driving conditions.

Ice and Snow

In the past when icy conditions are forecast, the Oregon Dept. of Transportation has applied **anti-icing** materials to problematic areas of Pacific Avenue and 19th Avenue for the City. This only applies when they had the available resources to assist us. The City in turn sands and reclaims the sand from portions of the state highways where City streets intersect the State highways as City forces are typically first on the scene. Recently the City has purchased a 300 gallon capacity Ice Control Distributor and will be applying anti-icing liquids to our arterials and some collector streets when appropriate. Not having to rely on ODOT, we should be able to expand our coverage. City streets with other factors such as hills, shaded areas etc. will be considered on an as needed basis. Road surface, humidity, air temperature, moisture, weather and other factors are considered prior to anti-icing applications.

Non-toxic non-corrosive chemical anti-icing agents approved by the Pacific Northwest Snow-fighters, including Magnesium Chloride or Calcium Magnesium Acetate effectively reduce the freezing point of snow and ice, which helps to prevent ice from forming and bonding, and may reduce the need for sanding and reclamation.

When ice and snow cause streets to become slippery, the streets may be **sanded** to improve traction. A clean, finely graded crushed aggregate, or anti-skid material, is mechanically spread at intersections, curves, on hills and other problem areas, at the discretion of the Operations Supervisors. Sanding does not melt ice or snow.

Snow plows are not dispatched until after snowfall has stopped or until approximately two- inches (2") of snow has accumulated. Snow plows are usually kept off of priority routes during peak hours to avoid congestion and visibility problems.

Road closure barricades are set up when street conditions are extremely hazardous.

Motorist / Resident tips

Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and equipped for winter driving situations. Tire chains may be appropriate in some situations.

Exercise caution and drive with care. Driving at the posted speed may not be safe at all times.

Please respect **road closures**. Heavy equipment may be operating, bridges and culverts may be out of service, water over roadways and other hazardous conditions may exist. Road closures are for everyone's safety and apply to all road users – motorist, pedestrians, and bicycles. It is **unlawful** to move or drive around a road closure barricade.

If possible, please remove **parked vehicles** and other property from the public street and right-of-way to assist in the snow removal effort.

City employees may assist stranded motorist by contacting law enforcement or other emergency personnel. City employees will not attempt to remove or extract vehicles.