



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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### Winter Weather Information for Wellesley

**December 16, 2022 (Wellesley, MA)** – It's beginning to look a lot like WINTER! As Wellesley and much of the Commonwealth experience the first big storm of the winter, the Department of Public Works is sharing tips for weathering any significant weather events.

#### Snow Plowing Streets, Parking Lots, and Sidewalks



Public Works crews are responsible for plowing and ice control for over 110 miles of Town roads, 32 Town parking lots, and 55 miles of sidewalks. Crews work with the Wellesley Police Department to monitor weather and road conditions, with salter and snow plow crews on call to work during the winter season. In most cases when reliable forecasts are available, DPW will have employees and equipment scheduled in advance to treat and plow roads.

“During storms, our highest priority is to ensure safe roads for emergency vehicles and to coordinate any required school or public building closures due to weather. At the end of most snow storms, it generally takes another 3 to 4 hours for plows to properly push back snow on roads and intersections. We know homeowners are eager to clear driveways, but ask that you be patient while we complete our work,” said Mike Quinn, DPW Park and Highway Division Superintendent. “For sidewalks, we plow commercial areas and at least one side of main streets first. It may take another few days for us to complete all sidewalk plowing after a major snow storm.”

**Private Contractors** Homeowners using private contractors to remove snow should make sure snow is not pushed into public ways (streets or sidewalks) or across the street from the mouth of driveways. This is a violation of Town bylaws, and property owners could be fined up to \$50 per offense. Also contractors should not plow snow into fire hydrants in neighborhoods.

**No Overnight Street Parking** Town bylaws prohibit overnight street parking. Illegally parked vehicles that interfere snow plowing may be towed at the owner's expense. Also, please do not park vehicles in the public way portion of driveways - the last eight feet of the driveway nearest to the road - as this puts vehicles at risk and can impede snow removal on the sidewalk and street.

**Snow Fort Safety** Kids often make snow forts and igloos inside big piles of snow that may be close to roads. This creates extreme hazards for children when snowplows are clearing roads or pushing back snow to widen roads. Please have fun building forts and igloos well away from roads!



**Commercial Areas** Business owners should remove all planters, signs, outdoor furniture, and other fixtures from sidewalks before a storm. These items make it difficult for sidewalk plows to safely maneuver in tight spaces. The Town is not responsible for items that may be damaged when left

on sidewalks during plowing operations. While sidewalk tractors will clear snow and treat ice while passing storefronts, business owners are responsible for individual entrance ways.

#### **Other Key Tips:**

- If the weather is calling for snow turning to freezing rain, wait to shovel your driveway after freezing rain stops. This will help prevent your driveway from icing.
- Plow drivers work long, often dark hours during a storm. It is difficult to determine the exact center of the road in these conditions and despite best efforts, one side of the road may end up with more snow than the other side.
- Salting trucks or snowplows may go by homes many times during a storm, particularly on routes that lead to outlying areas. The storm will dictate how many times we sand or plow a street.
- When driving during a storm, do not pass a plow or sander and maintain a safe distance.
- If possible, "[adopt a fire hydrant](#)" near your home. Shovel out hydrants and storm drain grates after the storm to prevent street flooding and icing.
- Avoid planting trees, shrubs, or placing rocks close to the edge of the road. These items may be accidentally damaged by sanders and snowplows.
- To ensure regular mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service, clear snow around the mailbox. Mailboxes placed in the right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts.
- To help protect your lawn and better guide street and sidewalk plow operators, you may choose to please place reflective snow stakes along the edges of your landscape.
- Winter sand/salt is available to residents FREE OF CHARGE at the RDF.

#### **Questions or Concerns**

For questions or concerns about roads in Wellesley, please email the DPW Highway Division at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov) or call 781-235-7600 ext. 3325 or ext. 3322 (after hours).

Routes 9 and 135 (Central Street from Weston Road to the Natick town line) are maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). For questions about these roads, please contact MassDOT District 6 at 617-951-6200.



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