

City of Vergas
Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy

INTRODUCTION: The City will provide snow removal and ice control operations in a safe and cost-effective manner; keeping in mind safety, budget and environmental factors. The city will utilize its employee's and equipment and/or private contractors, when necessary, to provide this service.

POLICY:

1. The City Utilities Department decides when to begin snow or ice control operations using the following guidelines:
 - Single event snow accumulation of 3 or more inches Monday-Friday and 4 inches or more on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.
 - Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel.
 - Icy conditions that seriously affects travel.
 - Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.
 - **If Utility Superintendent feels snow emergency is needed, a text or phone call is required to be sent to the Mayor. The Mayor will call snow emergency by texting Utility Superintendent and City Clerk.**
 - **City Clerk will notify media and post snow emergency.**
 - **Utilities employees will place orange notices on vehicles requiring to be moved and call tow truck for removal of vehicles.**
2. Snow plowing and ice control operations:

Priority and schedule of street plowing is based on street function, traffic volume and importance to the welfare of the community. The main business streets, adjacent business areas and high-volume traffic routes are plowed first. Per an agreement with the Ottertail County Highway Department, the county plows snow on main street of Vergas (Highway 4), to the curb or middle, and the City of Vergas removes the snow from along the curb or middle of street. The City is reimbursed by the county for snow removal.

 - Operations continue until all roads are passable.
 - Generally, gravel roads are not plowed until frozen, unless over 5 inches of snow or based on conditions impacting road passage.
 - Widening and clean-up operations may occur immediately or on a following workday depending on conditions.
 - Sand and salt mixtures, here and after referred to as sanding, are utilized for ice and slippery areas. Sanding is done the first initial time of plowing operations or whenever hazardous ice or slippery conditions develop. Priority is given to intersection's, curves and hills. Additional sanding is at the discretion of the City Utilities Department. The City of Vergas does not have a dry pavement policy, so drivers will always have to be careful during the winter season.
 - Subject to availability of time, walking paths will be plowed and maintained, however, to avoid killing vegetation there will be no sanding.
3. As outlined in City Ordinance 71.04 during a declared snow emergency or **enough snow has accumulated to plow**; no motor vehicle shall be left parked on any street or public way in the city until street cleared on both sides of accumulated snow or declared emergency canceled.

If the owner does not immediately remove the motor vehicle or the owner cannot be located, the utility maintenance employees are authorized to have the motor vehicle removed at the owner's expense.

4. Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of city employee's and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include; severe cold, significant winds limiting visibility and rapid

accumulation prohibiting effective operations. The City Utilities Department will determine when snow and ice removal operations need to be suspended due to weather conditions.

5. Snow and ice removal from driveways and sidewalks are the responsibility of residential and business property owners. Exceptions may occur as determined by the City Utilities Department in instances of extreme snow volume or other circumstances. It is not the intent to fill resident driveways or sidewalks with snow.
6. The Utilities Department will haul snow away from intersections within city limits when accumulated snow has created an unsafe condition for vehicular or pedestrian passage. Any other hauling away of snow is at the discretion of the Utilities Supervisor.
7. The City Office is kept informed and updated regarding snow and ice operations. Questions or concerns can be directed to the City Office.
8. **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**
 - Property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice away from mailbox to insure delivery of mail.
 - To allow for effective snow removal, trash containers should be placed on driveway aprons or boulevards at least 10 feet behind the street curb or edge. Do not place on the street. The City is not responsible for tipped, spilled or damaged containers.
 - Fire Hydrants need to be kept clear of snow to allow for quick access in the event of a fire. The City Utilities Department make's every effort to keep hydrants clear, however due to workload, fire hydrants may not be immediately cleared. City residents are asked for support to keep fire hydrants clear of snow in their neighborhood.
 - Refer to City Policy regarding damage to mailboxes, sod, sprinkler systems located in the right-of-way.

Adopted this 9th day of February, 2020 by the City Council of the City of Vergas.

Julie Bruhn
Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Lammers
City Clerk-Treasurer

Adopted 02/09/2020
Revised 01/10/2023