



## Avoid the Flurry - Prepare for Snow Now

Date: Friday, November 27, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Last December, a series of storms dumped a record-breaking 110 centimetres of snow on Victoria two weeks before Christmas. Snow and ice clearing is a big job and we need to work together as a community to keep streets and sidewalks clear and safe, and keep people, goods and services moving when it snows.

Now is the time to buy shovels, sand and environmentally sensitive ice melt products to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways. Prepare an emergency kit containing a flashlight, radio, new batteries, and candles and matches, and have plenty of food, essential medicine and extra blankets on hand. The City's *Recipes for Disaster* list the supplies residents and businesses will need to cope for a minimum of three days in the event of a heavy snowfall or power outage. To view the recipes, visit: [www.preparevictoria.ca](http://www.preparevictoria.ca)

Residents and businesses are reminded that under the *Streets and Traffic Bylaw*, they are required to clear snow and ice from sidewalks in front of their property by 10 a.m. each day. Victoria citizens are encouraged to make arrangements with neighbours in advance to clear each other's sidewalks in the event they are away from home or work when it snows. Please remember the elderly or disabled, who will appreciate the assistance with snow removal.

Those who do not comply with the Bylaw may face a fine of \$150 per ticketed offence (per day) and a ticket can be issued up to six months after an offence has occurred. With over 450 kilometres of sidewalks in Victoria, it would be too costly for City taxpayers to take on the entire task of removing ice and snow.

Victoria businesses and residents will soon receive a fact sheet in the mail that explains their role and responsibilities when it snows, how the City prepares for snow and prioritizes snow clearing, and its "green" ice and snow removal practices.

For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/snowclearing](http://www.victoria.ca/snowclearing)

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