prepare for snow and ice

victoria, bc — environment canada has issued a snowfall warning, forecasting up to 5 centimetres of snow for victoria starting late this afternoon with more snow on the way.

city of victoria public works staff are monitoring weather forecast and tracking sites as well as pavement temperature sensors. the city’s anti-icing truck is applying “brine” (salt and water) to major victoria roads, emergency and bus routes, hills and bridges.

when the snow starts falling, city trucks will begin de-icing and ploughing. crews will also start to clear “first priority” sidewalks, which include downtown transit stops and wheelchair ramps, and sidewalks fronting city properties downtown. roads will need to be clear for crews to plough. in the event of snow, motorists whose vehicles are parked on-street are asked to move them to use off-street facilities and to take public transit.

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.

snow clearing tools for victoria businesses and households should include shovels and sand. using environmentally sensitive ice melt products is highly recommended as rock salt is harmful to concrete sidewalks, pets’ paws and the environment.

now is also the time to refresh an emergency kit with a working flashlight, radio, new batteries, and candles and matches, and to have plenty of food, essential medicine and extra blankets on hand. the city’s recipes for disaster list the supplies residents and businesses need to cope for a minimum of three days in the event of a heavy snowfall or power outage. to view the recipes online, visit: [www.preparevictoria.ca](http://www.preparevictoria.ca)

snow clearing fact sheets available on the city of victoria website and at city hall, explain the roles and responsibilities of residents and businesses when it snows, how the city prepares for snow and prioritizes snow clearing, its “green” ice removal practices, and helpful snow shovelling and safe driving tips. for more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/snowclearing](http://www.victoria.ca/snowclearing)

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