



## Be Prepared for More Ice and Snow

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — With colder than normal temperatures forecast, and Environment Canada calling for more snow tomorrow afternoon, we need to work together as a community to keep streets and sidewalks clear and safe, and keep people, goods, and services moving.

At this time of year, the City of Victoria monitors weather forecast and tracking sites daily, as well as pavement temperature sensors. On Monday and Tuesday night, the City's anti-icing truck was out applying a layer of "brine" (salt and water) on hills and bridges and major Victoria roads, and crews have been out clearing ice and snow from sidewalks and crosswalks downtown.

To be as prepared as possible, staff meet each afternoon to plan the next 24 hours of response to the weather conditions that are continually updated using weather and satellite image sites. Mechanical staff also maintain the snow and ice equipment daily to ensure it can be available for use when required, which can be a challenge given the harsh and cold conditions.

When snow starts falling, City trucks begin de-icing and ploughing roadways and sidewalks, in order of priority. Crews respond by first to clearing "first priority" roads, which include emergency routes, major streets, hills, and access to important sites such as hospitals, fire and emergency headquarters. Crews also work to clear snow from sidewalks, starting with the highest priority downtown transit stops, wheelchair ramps and sidewalks fronting City property. In a large snow event City staff are out 24 hours per day responding to calls and reporting back on road and sidewalk conditions around the city as needed.

Residents and businesses are reminded that under the Streets and Traffic Bylaw, they are required to ensure snow and ice is cleared from the sidewalks in front of their property by 10 a.m. each day. Victoria citizens are encouraged to make arrangements with friends and neighbours to clear each other's sidewalks in the event they are away from home or work when it snows. Remember to lend a hand to the elderly and those in need, who will appreciate any assistance with snow removal. Please do not shovel or plough snow onto city streets or sidewalks as it slows snow removal. Snow clearing tools for Victoria businesses and households should include shovels, sand, and environmentally sensitive ice melt products to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways.

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)

Those who do not comply with the sidewalk snow/ice Bylaw may face a fine of \$125 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 taxpayers to take on the entire task of removing ice and snow.

To learn more about the roles and responsibilities of residents and businesses when it snows, and how the City prepares for snow and prioritizes snow clearing, visit: [www.victoria.ca/snowclearing](http://www.victoria.ca/snowclearing)

**For More Information:**

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