

Winter Driving & Reminders

Are you prepared for winter driving? Here are a few helpful tips from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to get you ready:

- **Check or have a mechanic check your car** to make sure all components are operational, your fluid levels are adequate, and your winter tires are ready to go.
- **Update the [emergency kits](#) in your vehicles with:**
 - a shovel
 - windshield scraper and small broom
 - flashlight
 - battery powered radio
 - extra batteries
 - water
 - snack food
 - matches
 - extra hats, socks and mittens
 - first aid kit with pocket knife
 - necessary medications
 - blanket(s)
 - tow chain or rope
 - road salt and sand
 - booster cables
 - emergency flares
 - fluorescent distress flag



Please keep in mind the on street parking Ordinance No.02-72. It shall be unlawful to leave unattended, or park any motor vehicle upon any Village Street when there has accumulated upon any streets two inches (2") or more of snow. This prohibition shall remain in effect until such time as the street has been plowed, the snow has been removed there from, or the snowfall has stopped. Your vehicle is in danger of being struck by other vehicles. It also hampers snow removal. Unfortunately, our plows cannot stop to remove snow around your car. You will have to dig it out so move it before the plow gets there. Once the snow stops and the streets have been plowed, you may again park in the street.

Although plow drivers take care to selectively place snow, we unfortunately need to place more snow at intersections. We appreciate your help in clearing snow from curb ramps and around fire hydrants. Do not blow or plow snow into the streets when clearing your driveways and sidewalks. This creates issues for drivers and neighbors and is against the law.

Visibility from within snowplows is limited. We ask you to talk to your children about keeping a safe distance from the snowplow. Keep snow forts away from the street and islands. You should keep your garbage cans and recycling totes out of the street so the plows do not hit them.

Last winter's harsh cold temperatures caused some water service lines to freeze. You can minimize the potential for frozen lines by running a small stream of water through your faucet on cold days. For more information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/winter-storm/preventing-thawing-frozen-pipes>.

The Public Works Department is prepared to take on the challenges of winter as well. The department continues the anti-icing program that will supplement our fleet of snowplows. The anti-icing program consists of two applications of liquids. We apply a mixture of salt brine (water and Sodium Chloride), an agricultural-based liquid product (typically beet juice), and liquid Calcium Chloride prior to the start of the event. We

custom make the mixture based upon projected pavement temperatures, air temperatures, and wind speed. You will know what we have put this mixture in place when you see telltale longitudinal stripes on the pavement. We can place this mixture on the pavement up to 48 hours prior to the start of the snow.

We make a second application of liquid to the rock salt just prior to distributing the salt onto the road. The liquid helps activate the salt, allow it to work to colder temperatures, and reduces bounce when the salt hits the pavement.

The anti-icing system has several benefits. The most important benefit is that it will help us remove snow and ice from the pavement faster and to lower temperatures. A second benefit is that it will help us reduce the average amount of salt applied during each storm by 15-20%. This reduction saves us money and helps the environment.

When conducting snow plowing, we prioritize collector roads such as Douglas Road and Boulder Hill Pass as these roads provide access for large areas. We then address neighborhood streets followed by cul-de-sacs and alleys. The Village contracts with a private service to plow cul-de-sacs.

If you discover that your mailbox is damaged, please report it within three (3) business days of the snow event to the Public Works Department at 630-554-3242 or by reporting it through Oswego Click-'n-Fix . A Public Works representative will assess the damage to determine if plow blade or vehicle caused the damage. If this is the determination, the Village will reimburse the homeowner in an amount not to exceed \$75.00 for repairs or a new mailbox. If the Village determines that thrown snow or other indeterminate issue caused the damage, the Village will not provide reimbursement.

You must submit receipts for reimbursement by April 30, 2016 to the Public Works Department. We cannot issue payments after that date. All repairs and replacement of all mailboxes will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Please keep in mind that you are not allowed to deposit snow on streets per Ordinance No.04-02. It shall be unlawful to deposit snow onto the streets while removing snow from resident driveways and sidewalks.

Refuse reminder: Please do not place your garbage cans/bags and recycling totes in the street. If they are in the street, village plows cannot plow close to the curb during the clean up process.

The Public Works Department thanks everyone for their help and cooperation during the winter season.