

Municipality of Norristown

Snow Plan/ Snow Emergency

Introduction

Each winter the Norristown Public Works Department is responsible for snow and ice removal operations on our streets. Though no two storms are alike, and each may require a somewhat different response, this plan is intended as a general guide for the public for most winter storms.

Plowing Routes

Salting and plowing shall begin first on PennDOT routes and the major arterial routes and collector streets, including any residential streets that serve as routes for emergency vehicles, to ensure access into and out of Norristown by emergency vehicles. Therefore, the following streets will be the first addressed:

- Main Street
- DeKalb Street
- Swede Street
- Marshall Street
- Sterigere Street
- Airy Street
- Markley Street
- Lafayette Street
- Johnson Highway
- Fornance Street
- New Hope Street

A portion of the snow plowing force will be redirected to clear secondary residential streets after the initial clearing of the major roads. All crews will continue to circle throughout the Municipality after the snowfall has ended until all streets are clear.

Norristown is divided into five sections for the purposes of snow plowing: East, West, North, Central, and Norris Hills.

The East section is bounded by Fornance St., the Plymouth line, Arch St. and Washington St.;

The West section is bounded by Sterigere St., Markley St., Forest Ave., and Jackson St.;

The North section is bounded by Johnson Highway, Arch St., Harding Blvd./Markley St., and Fornance St.;

The Central section is bounded by Fornance St., Arch St., Markley St., and Washington St.

The Norris Hills section is bounded by Johnson Highway, Plymouth Line, Fornance St., and Arch St.

Methods of Snow Clearance

Storms shall be classified as follows:

<u>Amount of Snowfall</u>	<u>Method of Road Maintenance</u>
Class 1 Storm: 0 – 2 inches	Salt/cinder only. No plowing
Class 2 Storm: 2 - 6 inches	Salt/cinder and plow.

Drivers will widen each street as completely as possible before moving on to the next street. This will often involve two passes down each street before moving on to the next street. On narrow streets, particularly those with on-street parking, only one pass may be possible.

Drivers will use their judgment in widening streets. While it is optimal to open a street from curb to curb, it may not be necessary in all situations. Drivers must balance the need to widen the street against the possibility that cleared sidewalks will be covered.

Maintenance Routes

Municipal Maintenance Routes restrict parking during certain times and days of the week so that street sweeping, utility repair, or other municipal activities can be completed – this also includes clearing snow.

It is important that these routes remain clear of parked cars after a snow storm so that the snow can be sufficiently pushed to the curb. This allows the public works department to widen the available cartway for driving and helps get the town ready for the next storm.

Following snow storms of three to six inches (including accumulations of ice), the police department shall suspend ticketing of cars parked illegally along maintenance routes for a period of two hours to allow residents to dig out and move their cars.

For snow events greater than six inches or more, the police shall suspend enforcement of maintenance routes for 24 hours following the end of the snow storm.

Snow Emergencies

A snow event with accumulation of at least 12 inches (un-compacted depth) will trigger a Snow Emergency declaration by the Municipality in accordance with §147-12 of the Municipal Code. The snow emergency notification will be broadcast on local radio station, WNPV 1440 AM and regional radio station, KYW 1060 AM. The Municipal website and television information channel will also be updated with this information.

Several streets in Norristown are difficult to plow because they are so narrow. In these cases alternative parking may be made available on a voluntary basis to residents who park on the following streets:

1. Green Street from Basin Street to Main Street
2. Cherry Street from Lafayette Street to Basin Street
3. Willow Street from Logan to Elm Street
4. Oak Street from Arch Street to DeKalb Street
5. Corson Street from Oak Street to Marshall Street
6. Chain Street from Elm Street to Main Street
7. Lafayette Street from Pearl Street to Haws Avenue.
8. Kohn Street from Beech Street to Airy Street
9. Pearl Street from Lafayette Street to Main Street

Residents on these streets will be informed by the Norristown Public Works Department when alternative parking is necessary and available.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours of the end of a snow storm.

Throwing Snow into the Streets

Clearing snow from sidewalks or cars and throwing it into public streets is prohibited and is subject to a fine of \$10. Plowing snow into the street by private snow-removal companies is prohibited and is subject to a \$100 fine.

Placing Chairs or other Objects in the Street

Placing chairs or other objects in the street to hold a parking space impedes snow-clearing efforts. It is illegal. Public Works crews shall remove items for disposal according to procedures established by the Norristown Public Works Director.

For Further Information

Please note that snow updates are posted on our public TV access channels: Comcast Channel 965 and Verizon Channel 21. Other questions or comments may be called into the Public Works Department at 610-270-0437.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during snow events!