

Preparing for Winter a Snow Brainer

Being ready and staying informed both key to a better winter on city roads

Transportation Services is well prepared for winter on city roads.

"We were ready for the arrival of cold weather long before the first snowflake fell," said Bob Dunford, Director of Roadway Maintenance. "Vehicle maintenance, preparation of road abrasives and operator training gets started during the summer so that when we do get that first taste of winter we can mobilize on a moment's notice."



Winter road maintenance includes: sanding slippery roads, plowing arterial, collector and neighbourhood streets when snow accumulates and removing windrows from arterials and collectors.

During the course of an average winter, Roadway Maintenance applies large quantities of abrasive material to city streets, including approximately:

- 112,000 tonnes of street sand (including 77,000 tonnes of recycled sand)
- 19,000 tonnes of salt
- 23,000 tonnes of rock chips
- 208,000 litres of calcium chloride (de-icer) to city roads

The abrasive material is mixed and piled at five district yards around Edmonton. Actual amounts applied will vary depending on precipitation and temperatures.

City staff must also ensure that the City's 240 pieces of equipment (131 sander/plows, 44 plows, 20 graders, 17 blowers, 20 sidewalk plows/sanders, six skid steers and two belt loaders) are in good repair and ready for service as needed.

As critical as it is for Roadway Maintenance to be prepared for winter roads, citizens should be prepared as well, particularly for seasonal parking bans on collector/bus routes.

"One of the first things people should consider, especially those who live on bus routes where seasonal parking bans apply, is where they might park their vehicles when a parking ban is declared," said Dunford. "Whether that means cleaning out the garage, clearing space on a parking pad or scouting out an alternate parking spot, in the long run it pays to have a plan."

Citizens can keep informed as parking bans are declared/lifted by visiting edmonton.ca/winterroads. Neighbourhood blading cycles are also updated at this website, to help keep people informed of when to move their vehicles so that City crews can do the best job possible.

Residents can also register for email about parking bans and blading. The email notification system is the fastest, most efficient way to keep informed about roadway maintenance, but information is also available through the City's website and 311, posted to FaceBook and Twitter and sent to local media outlets.

Additional online services include an interactive map/listing of community sand boxes and an interactive map for determining when crews will visit neighbourhoods during a blading cycle.

"Keeping well-informed and being prepared for whatever winter might throw at us won't make the season shorter, but it will definitely make everything much easier for city crews and for citizens," said Dunford. "The City encourages residents to make the most of the communications tools we've created to keep informed about what's happening on Edmonton roads over the next several months, and stay in the know about snow."

For more information, visit:

edmonton.ca/winterroads

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