

City of Fremont, Michigan

Snow Removal and Winter Safety Guidelines

Winter is finally here, but with many weeks to go. The Department of Public Works (DPW) worked diligently through the holidays to keep the streets, sidewalks and parking lots safe and clean. To assist the DPW in this effort, the City asks that residents and private snow removal contractors observe the following guidelines:

- Snow must not be pushed across or into a street or alley, because snow deposits are often left in the roadway obstructing traffic and causing safety concerns.
- Please be aware that City road right-of-ways (ROW) extend generally to behind a sidewalk. This area, known as the "parkway" is reserved for placement of snow from the street and sidewalk. Deposit of snow from private property onto the parkway should be held to a minimum.
- Snow should not be pushed or piled onto your neighbor's property without permission.
- Snow may not be pushed or piled onto public sidewalks. City crews use the Bombardier sidewalk plow to remove the bulk of snow. Per City Code, property owners are required to complete the removal to make the walks safe.
- Snow must not be piled at a height or in a location that obstructs the view of traffic or pedestrians. Pay particular attention to clear vision triangles at intersections and driveways.
- Snow should not be piled in any way that covers or obstructs the path to a fire hydrant. Please consider adopting a hydrant near you and keeping it regularly free of snow. While firefighters generally know where each hydrant is located, time spent locating and digging it out could mean the difference in a life- or property-threatening situation.
- Property owners with street-side mailboxes should attempt to keep the area clear of snow to allow postal vehicles access to the boxes.
- Please educate children about the dangers of playing in and around snow piles near a street. They can be hit or buried by a passing plow, or another vehicle that may not see them in time.
- Make several extra visual checks of oncoming traffic when entering a street from a driveway. Pull out slowly and only if there is enough of a gap in traffic to allow easy access based on the road conditions.
- State law requires pedestrians to use sidewalks where provided. Where none are available, pedestrians shall, when practicable, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic. Remember to wear light-colored clothing and reflective items if walking or jogging at dusk or in the evening.
- Police Chief Phil Deur also encourages motorists to be mindful and alert to several local blind pedestrians. Drivers approaching a pedestrian carrying a white cane or using a guide dog, must take all necessary precautions to avoid accident or injury to that person, regardless of whether the motorist would ordinarily have the ROW. Law requires a driver be held liable for any injury to a blind pedestrian.
- Garbage rollout carts, bags, recycling bins or other items for pickup should be placed in driveways or in areas cleared of snow at curblines. Under no circumstances should they be placed directly in the streets.
- From December 1st through April 1st, parking on City streets between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00 AM is prohibited, so that the City DPW crew can plow the streets thoroughly and effectively. The "no parking" restriction applies regardless of snow being present.
- Also, we would like to remind residents that operating snowmobiles upon a public street within the City is prohibited, unless specific authority is granted by the police department.
- Check eaves above your gas & electric meters to make sure no ice is forming that could fall and damage the meter and cause leakage.