



NEWS RELEASE

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Bellevue readies for more inclement weather

BELLEVUE – With predictions of more snow and strong winds tonight, the City of Bellevue is preparing for more weather blasts.

“The city’s crews are getting equipment and supplies ready and will be working round the clock to respond to snow and ice,” said Denny Vidmar, Utilities Director. “Crews use plows and sanders to clear designated citywide and neighborhood priority routes first to accommodate fire, medical and police response. These streets may require repeated plowing and sanding if snowfall is continuous. Once priority routes are clear, crews then work to clear other neighborhood streets.”

To view Bellevue’s snow routes map, visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/snow_route_map.htm

An environmentally safe anti-icing agent called CMA (Calcium Magnesium Acetate) will be applied between 9 p.m. and midnight to higher elevations and typical icing locations before the freezing conditions tonight to reduce snow adhesion. CMA will be applied as conditions warrant since it becomes ineffective once wet snow or rain dilutes it.

Utilities doesn’t use salt on roads because many of Bellevue’s streams are salmon-bearing, and salt in the runoff can kill aquatic life. Traction sand is used sparingly and then swept up by street sweepers to limit runoff into streams and lakes.

(For a detailed report of Bellevue’s weather preparedness plan, see attached doc.)

Garbage may not be picked up in bad weather

Allied Waste trucks generally do not run when Bellevue schools are closed for bad weather. If snow or ice prevent safe collection, take materials back inside. A double load of garbage, recycling and yard debris will be collected at no additional charge on the next regularly scheduled collection day (a week later). Excess materials due to missed collection can be put in a temporary container, such as a box or paper bag marked "Garbage," "Recycling" or "Yard Debris."

Tips to follow when the temperature dips:

- If you have a life-threatening situation, call 911.

- To report hazardous road conditions, down or damaged stop or yield signs, please call City of Bellevue Utilities 24-hour emergency number 425-452-7840.
- To report gas leaks, power outages, and down power lines, please call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773
- **If you use a grill or hibachi to cook or a backup generator, keep them outside with the back up generator. They can produce deadly Carbon Monoxide gas.**
- If you have any questions about the food being spoiled: When in doubt, throw it out!
- To report a water main break at your home or business, lack of water, hazardous road conditions, down or damaged stop or yield signs, please call City of Bellevue Utilities 24-hour emergency number 425-452-7840.
- Build Emergency Kits for your family to have at home, in the car and at school or work. Your kit should sustain you for 72 hours or longer. Place in your Emergency Kit:
 - Food, water, first aid kit, a small tool kit, seasonal clothing, eye protection, flashlight with batteries, gloves, sanitary supplies, sleeping bags and extra blankets. Remember to add those special supplies if you have small children or you care for a someone with special needs. Items for your pets should also be included.
- Outdoor faucets and pipes, and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces are especially vulnerable to freezing. Insulate them with newspaper, rags, or other insulating material. Cover with plastic and secure with string or wire. It's okay to insulate the outside of your meter box, but please don't put materials such as styrofoam peanuts inside, as this makes it difficult to perform periodic maintenance.
- If a water pipe breaks, immediately turn off the main water shut-off valve and/or water meter to control flooding and water damage. Then call a plumber. The main water shut-off valve is usually located in the basement, garage or outdoors by the foundation. If there is no main shut-off valve, there is a valve in the meter box that you may use in an emergency. Turn clockwise with an adjustable wrench.
- Stay inside if possible instead of trying to navigate slippery walkways or roads. If you must go out, have traction devices in your vehicle. Test new chains to make sure they fit (some may not, even though the box says they fit a certain model). Take a cell phone with you in case your car gets stuck.
- Locate alternate routes and alternative parking if you live on streets in steep terrain. Stay on main roads.
- Keep sidewalks next to your home clear of ice and snow, but be careful not to overexert yourself.

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