

SNOW PLOWING

The following is a general description of how DPS plows snow from city streets:

Step 1: When a snowstorm begins, the department responds by salting main roads and bus routes. Salting serves 2 purposes: to keep traffic moving and to prevent the snow from bonding to pavement.

Step 2: Snow plowing typically begins when 2-3 inches of snow accumulates or forecasts indicate that it will. Over 160 city and private plows, sanders, and other snow removal equipment can be mobilized and assigned to pre-determined routes

Step 3: Plowing will continue until the snow stops and then post-storm salting will begin:

- Main streets & school bus routes are salted to achieve bare pavement conditions.
- Residential streets with hills & intersections are sanded to improve traction.
- Flat streets are sanded only if icy conditions exist

When driving, please stay 200 feet behind any snowplow. Visibility is not good for the snowplow operator. The speed of a snow plow is only 15-20 mph.

Frequently Asked Questions Snow Emergency

When is a Snow Emergency Declared?

The City of Peabody implements a snow emergency when it is determined that vehicles parked on the public way will impede the city's snow and ice operation efforts. A parking ban automatically goes into effect when a snow emergency is declared. Vehicles parked on a public way during a snow emergency may be towed at the owner's expense.

How will I receive notice of a snow emergency? When a snow emergency goes into effect, it will appear on the homepage of the City of Peabody's official website, www.peabody-ma.gov and on [Peabody Access Telecommunications \(PAT\)](#). In addition, a [Code Red](#) automated phone call will be made to all Peabody residents notifying them of the snow emergency. If you would like to add an additional phone number to the [CodeRed](#) database or be removed from the database, please visit the City of Peabody's website at www.peabody-ma.gov or call 978-538-5701 for assistance. Flashing blue lights throughout the city will also indicate when a snow emergency is in effect.

What does the Snow Emergency Parking Ban mean? When a snow emergency is declared, a parking ban is initiated requiring all vehicles be removed from City streets. For those who do not have off-street parking, alternative off-street parking may be available in your area. Please contact 978-538-6312 for more information.

How will I know when the snow emergency is over? To determine when a snow emergency ends, residents can check www.peabody-ma.gov or [Peabody Access Telecommunications PAT](#).

City of Peabody Snow Emergency Brochure

Mayor Edward A.
Bettencourt, Jr.



Office of the Director of Public Services

City of Peabody
Department of Public Services
50 Farm Avenue
Peabody, MA 01960
Tel. 978-536-0600

**A Message from
Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr.**

Removing snow and ice from Peabody's 170 miles of public roads is a formidable task. It involves coordination of private and city owned plows, mechanics, dispatchers, and route supervisors. The hours can be very long, with operations conducted during the most severe weather and driving conditions. We realize that an operation of such size and complexity is bound to generate complaints & requests for additional service.

Since it may take several hours for plows to make their way to your street, please be patient and hold off on early calls for service during a storm. If you believe a request for service is warranted and sufficient time has passed for us to have responded, please call 978-536-7114. This number will be staffed or your call will be recorded and the information relayed to supervisors for action.

Please note that calling 978-536-7114 is the **MOST EFFICIENT WAY** to get a service request response.

Please keep in mind that driving in winter storms should be avoided whenever possible. In every winter storm, there are periods when road conditions are hazardous despite best efforts. Our work to restore safe road conditions is completed more quickly and more efficiently when roads are free of traffic and parked cars.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Warmest regards,
Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr., Mayor

**Frequently Asked Questions
Snow Emergency**

Who is responsible for shoveling sidewalks? Although Peabody does not have an ordinance requiring property owners to do so, the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks is greatly appreciated. This will help prevent children, the elderly, and the general public from walking in the street during dangerous driving conditions. Following each storm the City of Peabody clears designated sidewalks along designated school routes. It takes time to accomplish this task, and it is only done after all roads have been cleared.

What about driveways? While the DPS tries to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed across driveways and exits, it is unavoidable. Clearing driveway openings is the responsibility of the property owner. Plow blades cannot be lifted as they pass by a driveway. Unfortunately, snow will be plowed into driveways as we perform curb-to-curb plowing. You may wish to clear your driveway several times during the storm or wait until the storm and plowing operations have ended.

I have a fire hydrant in front of my house. What should I do? There are 1,800 fire hydrants in the City of Peabody. While the fire department aims to clear them out following each snowstorm, they do not have the manpower to take care of all of them. The City's [adopt-a-hydrant program](#) calls for residents and business owners to clear out a 3-foot perimeter next to fire hydrants so that the fire department will be able to access the hydrants during an emergency. To adopt a hydrant near your home or business, please click [here](#).

**Frequently Asked Questions
Snow Emergency**

I have a catch basin in front of my house. What should I do? If you are physically able, please help us prevent street flooding by shoveling out catch basins near your home.

What about school cancellations or delayed openings? In the event of snow, the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with other area superintendents and the National Weather Service, decides whether to cancel school or delay opening. The School Department will notify parents of closure or delayed opening as early as possible utilizing the Connect-ED alert and notification system. This service allows the school department to send messages to your family's home, work or cell phones, and e-mail. To update your contact information, please click [here](#).

For emergency assistance, who can I call?

For snow-related service request during a snow emergency, call 978-536-7114. This is the **MOST EFFICIENT WAY** to get a service request answered.

For Police/Fire/Ambulance emergencies, call 911.

The non-emergency Police line is:
978-538-6385.

The non-emergency Fire line is:
978-531-2200