



CITY OF SALEM SNOW EMERGENCY

This brochure contains
important information to
help you through the
WINTER.

CITY OF SALEM
Robert K. McCarthy, Acting Mayor



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Plowing snow from Salem's 100 miles of public streets is a formidable task. It involves coordination of private and publicly owned plows, mechanics, dispatchers and route supervisors to inspect and control plowing activities and other support personnel. The hours can be extraordinarily long, with operations conducted during the most severe weather and driving conditions. We realize that in an operation of such size and complexity there are bound to be complaints or requests for additional service.

Since it may take several hours for plows to make their way to your street, please try to be patient and avoid early calls for service during a storm. If you believe that a request for service is warranted and sufficient time has elapsed for us to have responded, please call 978-744-3302. This number will be staffed or your call will be recorded and the information relayed to our supervisors for action. You may also email snow@salem.com with a request for service.

Remember, driving in winter snowstorms should be avoided whenever possible. In every winter storm, there are times when road conditions are hazardous despite everyone's best efforts. Our work to restore safe road conditions is completed more quickly and more efficiently when roads are free of traffic and illegally parked vehicles. Please comply with any parking bans that may be in effect.

In addition to this brochure, more detailed information regarding snow emergencies and alternative parking locations can be found at www.salem.com/snow.

*Thank You,
Robert K. McCarthy, Acting Mayor*

WINTER STORMS

Winter storms can provide tension and risk of injury to members of our community who must travel during storm conditions. The City of Salem wants to do all it can to reduce the likelihood of personal injury to our residents, automobile accidents and property damage by making the roadways as safe as possible under the worst of conditions. The City's goal is to quickly open the streets and make them passable so that essential traffic can safely negotiate roadways. Residents can help us do this by working together. This brochure provides you with information that will help you and the Department of Public Services (DPS) make the long winter months shorter than expected.

SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING BAN NOTIFICATION

The City of Salem implements a snow emergency parking ban when it is felt that we are to receive two or more inches of snow accumulation. If there is a parking ban in effect, it will appear on www.salem.com, SATV, and an automated telephone message will be sent out through the City's CodeRED system.

In addition, flashing blue lights will be activated throughout the city at the following locations: Loring Avenue @ Vinnin Square, Loring Avenue @ Canal Street, Lafayette Street @ Loring Avenue, Lafayette Street @ Washington Street, Bridge Street @ Webb Street, Boston Street @ Bridge Street, North Street @ School Street, Congress Street @ Palmer Street, Tremont Street @ School Street, Highland Avenue @ Salem Hospital, Jefferson Avenue @ Dove Avenue, North Street @ Essex Street, and North Street @ Oakland Street.

Residents should also be aware that the activation of the blue snow emergency lights at key intersections around the City is a signal that they should visit www.salem.com for additional information and is not a representation that a snow emergency parking ban is necessarily in effect at that precise time.

As always, you may contact The Department of Public Services (978-744-3302) or the City of Salem Police Station (978-744-0171 and press 4) to find out the status of the parking ban. Parking regulations are strictly enforced to ensure that streets remain accessible for snowplows, fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles. **Any vehicle that impedes the snow removal process will be ticketed and towed.**

DOWNTOWN SNOW EMERGENCY DISTRICT

The City of Salem has created a **Downtown Snow Emergency District**. The City realizes that businesses and restaurants continue to operate during snow fall, so this district will allow patrons to park on these designated downtown streets for a longer period of time. For example, if a snow emergency is declared to become effective at 8:00 p.m. on any given day, the City could enact a 10:00 pm. declaration that evening in the **Downtown Snow Emergency District** defined below. Any vehicles parked on streets in the district after the declared time will be ticketed and towed. Log onto www.salem.com/snow for a map of this district. The streets included in this district are as follows:

Streets in Downtown Snow Emergency District:
Washington Street (#1-191 only); Federal Street (from North Street to St. Peter Street); Essex Street (from North Street to Hawthorne Boulevard); Lynde Street; Norman Street; Church Street; Central Street (Essex Street to Derby Street); Front St., New Derby Street; Derby Street (Lafayette Street to Orange Street); Lafayette Street (#41-71 only); and Hawthorne Boulevard (westerly side of island).

Please be aware that snow plowing will still take place in this district during the entire snow event.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS

When the City of Salem declares a Snow Emergency, vehicles must be removed from all City streets and sidewalks. Failure to do so will result in ticketing and/or towing. Please note that **Salem public school lots are no longer allowable as snow emergency parking locations** (unless otherwise identified on salem.com/snow). However, the City of Salem does offer many alternative designated parking areas. **Log onto www.salem.com/snow for an interactive map of the City's snow emergency parking locations, which includes new alternative on-street parking sites (Portions of: Sargent St., Congress St. Collins St., Szetela Lane, Beacon Ave., and Lathrop St.).** The Museum Place Parking Garage and the South Harbor Garage snow **emergency parking rates go into effect two hours before the time of the declared snow emergency. (Not when the blue snow emergency lights are activated)** Vehicles parked in the garages more than two hours before the snow emergency goes into effect will be charged the regular parking rate. **(*Please note, vehicles entering the garages before the snow emergency parking rate goes into effect will be charged at the regular hourly rate, not the snow rate, until the vehicle is removed. Once a snow emergency goes into effect, parking in the city garages is \$5.00 per 24 hours or any portion of 24 hours. Vehicles should be removed from the garage by the close of business the day the snow emergency concludes. Vehicles left in the garage after that time will be charged an additional \$5.00 per 24 hours or any portion of 24 hours.).** (*A monthly pass does not guarantee you a parking space in the garage.)

Please note: The Church St. parking lot (pay by plate) and the MBTA station outside lot (pay by plate), and the Community Life Center parking lot at 401 Bridge St. are **not** snow emergency lots; and parking in Riley Plaza is by permit only. Permit fee for Riley Plaza is \$25 per month and can be obtained at the Parking Department Office. Please call 978-745-8120 for more information. All other downtown municipal lots are for snow emergency use. Metered rates will apply at the official end time of a snow emergency.

Alternative parking is also available at the Salem State University O'Keefe Center Parking Lot, Crowley Wind Services lot at 24 Fort Ave. and Prime Group Shetland Park Lot. **A permit is required** for all of these sites. (limited spaces available on a first-come first-serve basis). For the SSU parking lot you may register at university police on Central Campus, 73 Loring Avenue, seven days a week between 8 AM - 8 PM. **Please note that masks are required indoors and outdoors on campus.** For Prime Group Shetland and Fort Avenue lots call Salem Parking Garage at 978-745-8120.

Snow Emergency parking is also available at the MBTA garage on a first-come, first serve basis (see www.mbta.com for rates) and the Hampton Inn garage on a first come, first serve basis at 11 Dodge St. (\$5 for 24 hours and \$10 for 24-48 hours).

PLEASE NOTE: All vehicles must be removed from public and private parking lots immediately following the cancellation of the snow emergency (weekends included) or vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

(FYI: It is the policy of the DPS that snow removal will not take place in alternative parking areas, particularly at parks, until snow operations on city streets are completed. Please plan your vehicular needs accordingly.)

Snow Emergency Cancellation Information can be obtained by checking www.salem.com, calling the Salem Police Department's Non-Emergency Line at 978-744-0171 and press 4, tuning into SATV or contacting the Department of Public Services at 978-744-3302. **Only CodeRED texts and emails will be sent regarding cancellation information.**

SNOW PLOWING

The following is a general description of how the Department of Public Services plows snow from city streets.

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

Step 2. Snow plowing begins when snow accumulates two (2) inches, or forecasts indicate that it will. Over 100 city and private plows can be called out and assigned to plow pre-determined routes. For a map of the city's plow routes, log onto www.salem.com/snow. In addition, the City will begin treating and plowing high priority sidewalks and shared use paths. Log onto www.salem.com/snow for a map of these areas.

Step 3. Plowing will continue until snow has completely stopped, then post storm salting will begin:

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

When driving, please stay at least 200 feet behind any snowplow. Visibility is not good for the snowplow operator. The speed of a snowplow is only 15-22 m.p.h.

SIDEWALKS/SHARED USE PATHS

The removal of the snow and ice from sidewalks is greatly appreciated. This will help school children, the elderly, and the general public from having to walk in the street. The City of Salem clears designated sidewalks and shared use paths.

There are city ordinances requiring property owners to remove snow and ice from their bordering sidewalks within six hours after the snow ceases to fall or the city's snow emergency lights are turned off, whichever time is later. If the snow ceases to fall and the snow emergency lights are turned off in the nighttime, the snow shall be removed before 12:00 noon. If he/she neglects to do so, he/she shall be fined \$25 for 1st offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense.

DRIVEWAYS

While the Department of Public Services 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 activities have ended.

Snowplowing, shoveling, or throwing snow back onto the street when clearing driveways and sidewalks is prohibited by City Ordinance and violators can be fined \$75 for 1st offense, \$150 for 2nd offense and \$200 for 3rd and subsequent offenses.

ELDERLY SHOVELING ASSISTANCE

Please call the Council on Aging at 978-744-0924 and they will try to connect people with community groups who may be willing to shovel.

WINTER SAND

Winter sand is available for residents (only) at the Department of Public Works Garage located at 5 Jefferson Avenue and select locations across the City. Please limit yourselves to two (2) pails per visit.

CATCH BASINS

Help us stop street flooding by shoveling out catch basins near your home.

FIRE HYDRANTS

There are many Fire Hydrants in the City of Salem. Please help us *Keep Salem Safe* by shoveling around the hydrant near your home.

NOTIFICATIONS

To sign up for CodeRED automated phone messages, texts and emails go to www.salem.com and click Online Services in the blue border on the top of the home page and then click the CodeRed icon to complete the registration. You may also obtain snow emergency information by registering your email for City Alerts and City News and Announcements, by clicking Notify Me in the Salem Action Center box, filling in your email address, selecting the City Alerts and City News & Announcement boxes and clicking Subscribe Me. The City recommends you register for both Code Red Messages and City E-Mail Alerts.

Please note: CodeRED automated phone messages will not be used for snow emergency cancellations, only texts and emails from CodeRED will be sent.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE.....911
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE.....978-744-0171
NON-EMERGENCY FIRE.....978-744-1235
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE SNOW EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE.....978-744-0171, PRESS 4

UTILITY COMPANIES NUMBERS

NATIONAL GRID – ELECTRICITY... 800-465-1212
NATIONAL GRID - GAS.....800-732-3400

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MASS DOT DISTRICT 4.....781-641-8300
POTHOLE REPAIRS.....978-744-3302
VEHICLES TOWED.....978-744-0171
LIFEBRIDGE SHELTER INFO.....978-744-0500
HEALTH DEPT.....978-741-1800
PARKING GARAGE.....978-745-8120
HARBORMASTER.....978-741-0098
TREE DEPT.....978-745-0195

