



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Press contact:

Una Cooper
Communications Director
240-216-2071
ucooper@cityofbowie.org

City of Bowie Prepares for Winter Weather and Urges Community to do the Same

Responding to winter weather and keeping the 192 miles of city roads safe is a responsibility the City of Bowie takes very seriously. The job entails plowing roadways, keeping city facilities accessible, and clearing certain other areas. The work is a joint effort of the Streets Division and the Parks and Grounds Division. Their efforts are sometimes supplemented by plowing contractors managed by the Public Works Department.

Snow response takes planning, coordination and good communication. Winter weather planning has been underway throughout the fall. All city departments participated in a winter weather coordination meeting last week, and staff are closely monitoring forecasts and participating in regional calls on snow readiness.

Here are some things you should know about Bowie's snow plowing operations:

- There are different levels of response based on the severity of the storm.
- When the snowfall is less than two inches, only main drives, hills and collector roads are treated.
- During larger storms and in severe icing conditions, all streets will be plowed/treated beginning with the most heavily traveled roads and progressing through to side streets and cul-de-sacs.
- During major snow events, crews will keep their focus on main thoroughfares to make sure they are passable. Crews will not move to side streets until this is done.
- Cars must be removed from the streets when two or more inches are forecast so that plows can clear the streets most efficiently.
- Clearing sidewalks in front of homes is the resident's responsibility and should be done within 48 hours after the snow stops falling.

- During and after a storm, dangerous road conditions may be reported to 301-809-2344 (between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.) After business hours, calls should go to the Bowie Police Department's Call Center at 240-544-5700.
- Some streets are maintained by Prince George's County and the State of Maryland. These streets will not be plowed by the City of Bowie. Visit www.cityofbowie.org/snowroads to see a list of these roads.

Residents are asked to do the following to help snow crews and emergency responders during winter storms:

- Stay off the roads in the event of snow or ice.
- Move vehicles off the streets and into driveways.
- Clear ice, snow and leaves from around fire hydrants and storm drains and avoid shoveling snow into the street.
- Keep shovels and salt or sand handy.
- Make sure you have food and other supplies on hand in case you are home for a few days or lose power.
- Sign up for Alert Bowie (www.cityofbowie.org/alerts) to receive updates from the City of Bowie about trash and recycling service changes, snow related closures, the status of plowing operations, weather alerts, and other storm related information.
- Information is also posted on the City's social media accounts, the Bowie government channel, and the City website.

More information about City of Bowie snow plowing operations can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/snow.

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