



PRESS RELEASE

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December 13, 2017

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City Issues Winter Reminders for Residents and Commercial Business Owners

ROCKFORD, IL. – As winter weather is now upon us, the City of Rockford has issued several winter reminders for business property owners and residents.

The City Commercial Snow Removal Ordinance requires commercial and industrial property owners to clear the sidewalk and public way adjacent to their property of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow or ice accumulation. The ordinance allows commercial property owners until 12:00 p.m. the following day after a snow or ice accumulation to complete the removal. It is also unlawful to push or throw snow from your private property onto the public right of way and could result in a fine. This applies to both commercial and residential properties.

In order for the public works team to remove snow and ice from city streets, crews must have the ability to safely and effectively maneuver a plow up and down city streets. If a snow or ice storm reaches the point that streets are becoming difficult to clear, city officials may declare a snow emergency. A snow emergency requires that vehicles be parked on the odd side of the street when the date ends in an odd number, and on the even side of the street when the date ends on an even number. Police and parking control officers will issue \$50.00 parking tickets to vehicles that are parked on the wrong side of the street. For more information about snow and ice operations and odd-event parking regulations, visit <https://rockfordil.gov/snowinfo/>. Plowing and salt requests can be called in to Public Works Street Division at 779-348-7260.

Residents are also encouraged to help keep fire hydrants clear of snow. There are more than 6,000 fire hydrants throughout the city, making it nearly impossible for firefighters to keep all fire hydrants clear of snow during periods of heavy snowfall. Quick access to fire hydrants during an emergency is critical and can be the determining factor in successfully extinguishing a fire. When possible, residents are asked to maintain a clear area of three feet in diameter around a fire hydrant in their yard. Residents who are physically unable to clear a fire hydrant covered with snow are asked to please call the Division of Fire Prevention at 779-348-7172 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Residents are reminded to please clear residential sidewalks so that pedestrians can walk safely without threat of vehicular injury, and are encouraged to assist neighbors who may not have the ability to remove snow because of age or physical restrictions during the winter months.

The City thanks residents and businesses for their cooperation in ensuring a winter-ready community.

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