



Inclement Weather What Residents Need to Know

Winter Weather Goals...

We work 24/7 (all day every day) until we achieve bare pavement on ALL Priority 1 Roads (major arterials, minor arterials, major collectors and minor collectors) such as Crater Road, Washington and Wythe Street Route 36, Wagner Road and County Drive Route 460 and Hickey Hill Road and then, if necessary, we continue to work 24/7 until all other roads within our system are passable. Passable does not mean bare pavement. Passable means that a road can be traveled with caution. In winter storms involving heavy snow accumulations, we make roads passable by plowing them for two way traffic (except for one way roads). Our plowing operations push off loose snow and we attempt to clip off ridges created by earlier traffic that may present ruts difficult to negotiate. Unlike previous years, you will see VDOT assisting with winter operations on our Priority 1 Routes. This is a result of the VDOT temporary assist program.

What We Do...

Snow removal is a year round activity for City of Petersburg Public Works. Before the cold winds blow and flakes fall, we have cleaned, greased and maintained all of our snow removal equipment. We have trained all of our employees on their snow duties, plowing/salting, maps and equipment. We have hired contractors with additional equipment and specialized equipment such as large capacity trucks, motor graders and loaders. We have also stocked up on necessary salt, sand and chemicals used during snow and ice events.

When the forecast calls for inclement winter weather, the Department of Public Works go into “*snow mode*”:

- ❖ **We operate 24 hours a day in two-12 hour shifts**, 7 days a week until all of our Priority 1 Roads are bare pavement and all others are passable.
- ❖ **We focus on Priority 1 Roads first.** These roads carry high volumes of traffic,

such as Crater Road. We strive for bare pavement as quickly as possible on all Priority 1 Roads. We use a combination of salt, sand and plowing operations to achieve bare pavement, depending upon field conditions.

- ❖ **Once we have achieved bare pavement on our Priority 1 Roads, we move our resources into subdivisions,** if determined un-passable. We sometimes find packed snow/ice bonded to the pavement making it difficult to achieve bare pavement in subdivisions. When snow/ice has been packed on the pavement for multiple days, we achieve passable conditions by plowing (sometimes just one pass per lane) and spreading sand on inclines and curves in order to improve traction on slippery surfaces.
- ❖ **Passable means a road can be traveled with caution.** In winter storms involving heavy snow accumulations, we make roads passable by plowing them for two-way traffic (except for one way roads). Our plowing operations push off loose snow and we attempt to clip off ridges created by earlier traffic that may present ruts difficult to negotiate. This may require motor graders that achieve more downward pressure than trucks with front mounted plows. In cases where inclines and curves are involved, an application of sand may also be made after plowing to assist with traction to make a road passable. Passable does not mean bare pavement. We do not have a bare pavement goal in subdivisions.
- ❖ **We do not take requests for snow service once we are in a 24/7 Response.** We strategically strive not to divert our dedicated resources to responding to individual complaints and specific requests until we have at least methodically plowed and/or sanded every applicable road in our system. If Fire or Police request our involvement due to an emergency response, we will respond to Fire/Police needs immediately.
- ❖ **As roads are plowed, private driveways are blocked.** There is no way we can clear each private driveway, and to attempt to do so would render us unable to clear our public streets. Clearing private driveways is the responsibility of homeowners. Depending upon weather and road conditions, we may plow the same road numerous times during a period of several days. Unfortunately, this means private driveways may need to be cleared again by homeowners.
- ❖ **After our snow removal operations are complete, street sweeping operations follow along where sand had been placed.** Swept and used sand cannot be recycled for the next storm since it contains other debris that would damage our sand/salt spreaders.