



Questions and Answers about Eugene's Snow and Ice Response

Q. How much equipment does the City have to use during winter weather?

A. Public Works Maintenance has nine primary pieces of heavy equipment to respond to winter weather. Some of the trucks are used for de-icing only. Others are equipped with sanding equipment and a snow plow. All of the trucks are used as part of the Leaf and Delivery Program. They have to be converted whenever a winter storm is threatening the Eugene area from November through January.



Q. What shifts do crews work during inclement weather?

A. Public Works Maintenance and Parks and Open Space staff will work around the clock, depending on the impacts of the storm. If the roads are covered in snow, crews will typically work in 12 hour shifts until the roads are cleared or the threat has passed. Crews focus on priority routes before moving into the neighborhoods.

Q. Why do trucks sometimes have their plows up when there's snow on the ground?

A. It all depends upon the conditions. Front mounted plows aren't effective in all types of snow and ice. Once snow is compacted and/or turns to ice, plows are ineffective in cutting the snow pack until the ice/snow breaks up into slush. In the periods when the snow is compacted, citizens will see sanders applying sand in alignment with our Snow & Ice Policy but not in plowing mode.

Q. Does the City use salt during winter response?

A. No, Eugene Public Works only uses sand and de-icing materials on City streets. The de-ice material approved for use on city streets is Magnesium Chloride (Mag), similar to other agencies in the Eugene area.

Q. How does the City clean up following winter events?

A. Public Works is committed to keeping the environment safe. About 24 hours after the weather event ends and future forecasts show improved conditions, street sweeper crews head out to pick up all the sand. Crews track the location and amount of sand put down during the event. They are able to pick up most of the materials.