SNOW EMERGENCIES

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about how a snow emergency is called and handled by the City of Albany. If you have additional questions, please call DGS at (518) 434-CITY (2489)

Q. *What factors does the City consider in determining whether to call a Snow Emergency?*

- Snow Emergencies are primarily called based on street conditions after a snow event. Total accumulation is one factor, but the City also takes into account the amount of snow already on the street prior to the storm, and whether another storm is forecasted in close proximity to a snow event. Another factor is the expected temperatures on the day of a storm and the days immediately following it. The City's primary concern is safe passage on streets, as well as parking needs in neighborhoods with little or no off-street parking.

Q. *Why does the City wait to call a Snow Emergency at the completion of a storm?*

- When it is snowing, our main priority is to keep the driving lanes open for safe passage for emergency vehicles and all other vehicular traffic. It would be ideal to order all cars off the streets during a storm, but that is not practical in a city with so many neighborhoods that depend on on-street parking.
- Snow Emergencies are mainly called for the removal of snow and push back of trouble areas, which we are unable to perform during a storm. Snow removal requires the city to call in contractors with special equipment, which is costly, and also requires manpower from City crews that are needed to plow streets while it is still snowing.
- Snow emergency parking lots need to be cleaned prior to the start of the Emergency and this cannot be done until it stops snowing.

Q. *How much notice does the City provide before a Snow Emergency begins?*

- We try to give residents sufficient time to plan ahead and try to give approximately 12 hours of notice before parking restrictions take effect. This also gives us time to notify the media and arrange other types of notification.

Q. *Where can I park my car during a Snow Emergency*

- The City provides off-street parking in the following lots:

Arbor Hill/Sheridan Hollow

1. Parking Area, Arbor Hill Softball Field (N. Lark St.)
2. 230 Colonie St. (playground lot)
3. 178 Colonie St. (playground lot)
4. Ten Broeck Mansion parking lot

Pine Hills

1. Ridgefield Park (on Partridge St.)
2. Woodlawn Park Little League
3. Waterson Park (Westland Hills)
   ~ Enter On Colvin Ave. or Austain Ave.
4. Washington Park (all roadways and parking areas)

South End

1. Krank Park
2. Franklin St. (between Schuyler & Bassett St. east side)
3. Lincoln Park (all interior roadways & parking area)
4. Frisbee Ave. parking lot
   (between Second Ave. and McCarty Ave.)

Center Square/Mansion

1. 77 Philip St. (playground)
2. 88 Philip St. (playground)
3. 179 Myrtle Ave (in front of Community Gardens)

North Albany

1. Hackett Park parking lot across from N. Albany Post

West End

1. Bleecker Stadium (parking area & roadways)
2. Tivoli Park (opposite Judson St.)
   ~ North Side of Livingston Ave.

Q. *What are the parking rules during a Snow Emergency?*

- When an Emergency is called all normal parking rules and regulations are temporarily suspended in the city. ***(You still CANNOT block hydrants, park in crosswalks, or park in handicap spot without a handicap permit.)***
- At the time the Emergency goes into effect you must move your car to the ***even side*** of the road for the first 24 hours. (failure to do this may result in your car being ticketed and/or towed)
- After the first 24 hours from the start of the Emergency all vehicles are to be moved to the ***odd side*** of the street for the remaining 24 hours.

Q. *What do I do if my car gets towed during a Snow Emergency?*

- If your vehicle is towed, you must call APD at (518) 438-4000 to find out the location of the tow lot.

During Snow Emergencies Trash & recycling pickup will be collected as usual.

Q. ***Why does the City remove snow at night?***

- The main portion of the removal is done at night because there is less traffic, which causes less disruption with the removal process. It also helps keep workers safer.

Q. ***Why doesn't the City remove snow from every street during a Snow Emergency?***

- The City removes snow from restricted streets, main roads and emergency routes.

Q. ***How does the City notify people of a Snow Emergency?***

- When a Snow Emergency is declared it is announced in the following manners:

  ~ News Media Radio & TV
  ~ Message Boards & Signs placed throughout the city
  ~ City's Web Site www.albanyny.gov
  ~ Snow Hotline (518)-476-SNOW(7669)
  ~ facebook/Albany Police Department
  ~ Twitter/Albany Police Department
  ~ nyalert.gov
  ~ www.nixle.com.

- In addition, APD attempts to contact residents before towing cars by knocking on doors and making announcements.

Q. ***How can residents help during a Snow Emergency?***

- The City ordinance puts the onus of clearing sidewalks on property owners. All sidewalks adjacent to your property must be cleaned within 24 hours of the completion of the storm. If this is not done, the property will be posted and cleaned, and the owner will receive a fine and a bill for the service performed.

- **Handicap ramps adjacent to your property are included in the code and also must be cleared within 24 hours**

- Dig out any fire hydrant on or adjacent to your property. It helps keep you and your neighborhood safe.

- It is Illegal to place snow from any walkway, parking lot and/or driveway into any city street or highway. Doing so can result in a fine.

Snow Shoveling Tips

* When shoveling, start slow and continue at a slow pace (Suggestion: shovel for 5-7 minutes and rest 2-3 minutes). Shoveling snow is a strenuous activity that is very stressful on the heart.

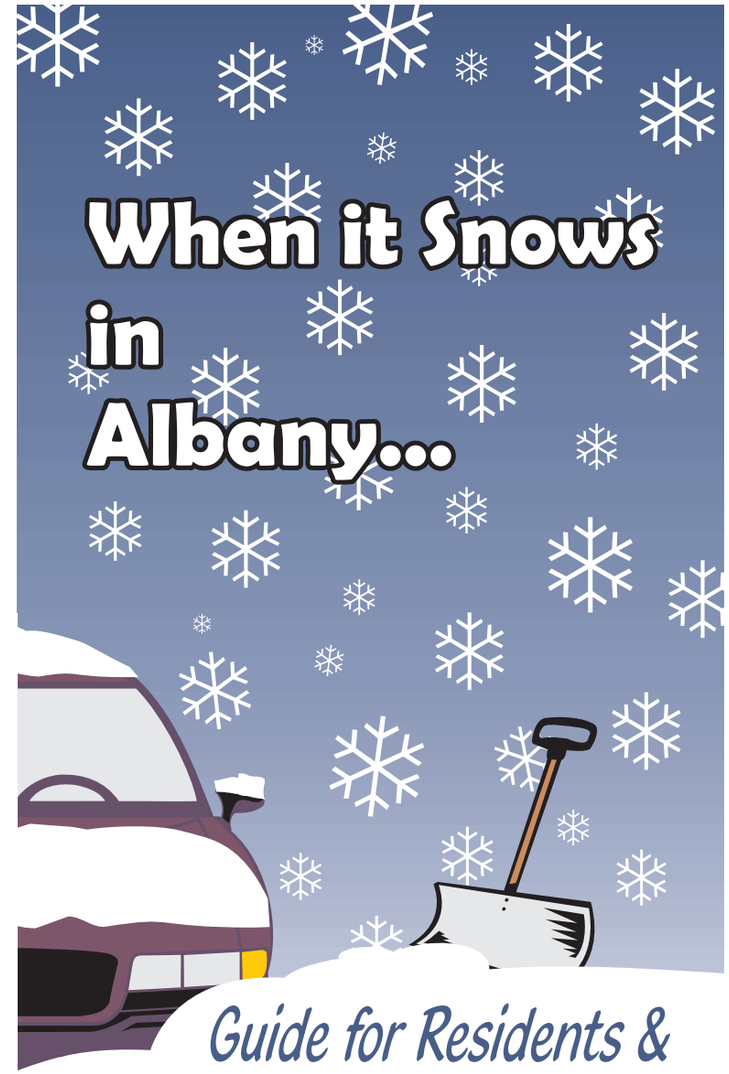
* Shovel early and often; new snow is lighter than heavily packed/partially melted snow. Take frequent breaks. Always try to push snow rather than lifting it.

* Protect your back by lifting properly and safely:

1. Stand with feet at hip width for balance
2. Hold the shovel close to your body
3. Space hands apart to increase leverage
4. Bend from your knees, not your back
5. Tighten your stomach muscles while lifting
6. Avoid twisting while lifting
7. Walk to dump snow rather than throwing it
8. When snow is deep, shovel small amounts (1-2 inches) at a time

* If you are physically unable to shovel your property, consider hiring a student or using volunteer services

You can get all the information by calling
Snow Emergency Hotline
476-SNOW (7669)
Department of General Services
434-CITY (2489),
or visit our website at
www.albanyny.gov



Guide for Residents & Visitors of the City of Albany

What is a "Snow Emergency"
Where can I park my car?
Who's going to clear my sidewalk?
Where did my car go?
Will my trash & recycling pick day change?

Answers to these questions & more can be found right here...