



**150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432**

## **Media Release**

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### **City of Joliet Winter Roadways Tips**

Winter season is coming and the City of Joliet would like to remind Joliet residents and businesses of the storm fighting procedures and helpful hints for the upcoming season. Please use caution during every snow storm this season if you need to be out driving. If at all possible, please remain home when it is snowing. The City of Joliet Roadways Division will be plowing to combat these storms; however, there will be hazardous conditions until all the City's thoroughfares have been treated.

Residents can assist Roadways Division crews in their efforts by doing the following:

- Residents should not park on the street during a winter snow event. Parked cars are an obstacle to the snow plows. In addition, plowing around parked cars leave large areas of snow and ice on the roadway. Roadways crews will not return to streets when parked cars are moved until the following day upon notification from the residents.
- Property owners are responsible for plowing commercial parking lots, driveways and public sidewalks adjoining their homes and businesses. Not keeping sidewalks clear is a city code violation.
- Shovel snow from driveways into the parkway and not into the street. This will help to avoid creating dangerously slippery conditions for both motorists and pedestrians. Shoveling snow into the street is a city code violation.
- Shovel out fire hydrants that are in or around your property and around meters to aid utility meter readers.
- Clear sidewalks of snow for the safety of pedestrians and children walking to school.
- Uncover your mailbox and clear a path for letter carriers in vehicles.
- Help your neighbors. For many residents, age or medical conditions make it difficult to shovel snow without risking health.

**The Roadways Division of the City of Joliet offers the following guidelines and helpful hints during a winter snow event:**

**During Snowfall Events:** The City of Joliet Roadways Division will mobilize its crews when there is a measurable accumulation of snowfall or if the winter mix is causing a hazardous driving situation such as freezing rain. The Roadways Division is responsible for over 500 miles of roadway with a fleet of 40 snow plow trucks and a crew of 34 employees. Joliet has a goal of clearing all streets within 24 hours after the snow stops falling. Heavier snows often take longer to clear. The City of Joliet crews plow most streets within the City limits; however there

are a number of roads that are the responsibility of other governmental agencies. For example, the State (IDOT) plows Larkin Avenue, Plainfield Road, Chicago Street south of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jefferson Street west of Larkin, and Theodore Street east of Cedarwood. The County plows Caton Farm Road, Briggs Street, and Black Road west of Essington.

### **Streets**

Street plowing operations are performed in the following order:

1. Major Arterials, hospital routes, hills and the bridges.
2. Subdivision Mains and collector streets.
3. All remaining subdivision streets.
4. Cul-de-sacs and dead ends.

Snow removal crews work long hours to keep the streets clear and safe. The City requests that Joliet residents help keep streets safe as well. Remember, snowplow trucks cannot stop or turn as quickly or easily as most vehicles. Due to the cost of de-icing materials, it is Roadways Division Policy to utilize salt on major arterials and subdivision mains at intersections and mid blocks only and utilize a mixture of salt and sand at the intersections only on the subdivision streets. Therefore, it should not be expected that these streets would immediately be clear to pavement. A mixture of sun and traffic is utilized to help with the de-icing procedures. Some snow is left on the street after plowing because allowances must be made for manhole lids and other above-pavement obstacles to avoid damaging snow plow blades.

### ***Chemicals used in Snow Fighting***

The City of Joliet utilizes a mixture of rock salt and organic liquids containing sugar beet juice in the fight against snow accumulation and freezing on the roadways. This combination allows for the material to be effective down to a temperature of minus thirty degrees (-30) Fahrenheit. In addition, this mixture will be less corrosive to the streets, vehicles and vegetation within the City of Joliet. Residents should expect to see a brownish residue on the streets as opposed to the white residue. As with the salt, this material is easily washed off vehicles.

### ***Parking***

Whenever possible, please park all vehicles in your driveways during a snow event to help facilitate the safe removal of snow on your street. When a measurable snow event meets 3 inches in accumulation, the Snow Parking Ban is put into effect. If the snow event is occurring on an even day, parking will be allowed on the even side of the street. Conversely if the snow event occurs on an odd day, parking will only be allowed on the odd side of the street. Please adhere to the parking regulations, as this will enhance the City of Joliet's ability to clear streets of snow. Due to the volume of streets to be cleared of snow and the staffing and equipment available, Roadways Crews will not return to streets where parked cars have been moved during snow removal operations. Crews will return during normal working hours after all streets have been cleared.

## **Driveways**

When plowing is required, snow “berms” are created across driveways. The plow operators do not have control over the windrow of snow coming off the edge of the blade. The Street Division tries to keep this problem to a minimum. The citizens of Joliet need to be patient and recognize that during the winter months there is bound to be some inconvenience. Snow operations are labor intensive and equipment does fail on occasion. To minimize the frustrating problem of the snowplow covering your driveway with snow after you’ve just shoveled it stand facing the street and shovel snow into the yard instead of the street. Residents are reminded that shoveling or plowing snow into the street is strictly prohibited by local ordinance.

## **Private Snow Plowing**

Property owners should be aware that placing, dumping or pushing of snow onto City streets or right-of-ways from adjacent properties is prohibited as per City of Joliet Ordinance 26-209.

## **Sidewalks**

The City of Joliet provides some sidewalk clearing in the downtown only. The City does not clear sidewalks in residential or business neighborhoods and applauds citizens and proprietors for clearing sidewalks to help their neighbors and customers weather the storm. Sidewalks should be cleared to the pavement at least one shovel’s width within 24 hours after a snowfall event. This makes it easier for children to walk to school or the bus stop. Please lend a hand to elderly or disabled neighbors who cannot clear their own sidewalks, porches, and steps.

## **Mailboxes**

The City of Joliet Snow fighters make every effort to clear the roads from curb to curb where cars are not parked on the street. In many cases of wet snow, the snow or plow blade may damage/remove mailboxes that are set close to the street. This is unavoidable. Mailbox damage complaints will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The City of Joliet will not reimburse for any mailbox damage on improperly located mailboxes. The standard and accepted mailbox placement should be 42 inches measured from the ground surface to the bottom of the mailbox. The mailbox should be located so the front of the box is no closer than 6 inches from the back of curb. Any questions regarding the placement of mailboxes should be directed to the Joliet Post Office at 815-773-1089.

## **Thomas A. Thanas City Manager**

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.visitjoliet.org](http://www.visitjoliet.org) or call 815.724.4000.