

- Have candles, flashlights and batteries available in case of power outages.
- If power is out, open outside doors only when necessary to preserve heat in the home.
- If winds are severe and sustained, check the attic for snow deposits, which may melt and cause water damage to the ceiling.

In Your Car

- Make sure the car heater and defroster work properly.
- Make sure the windshield wipers work properly, and clean without streaking.
- Make sure the battery is fully charged.
- Make sure tire chains are ready and in good repair.
- Make sure you have the following emergency/safety gear in your car: window scraper, booster cables, shovel, tow chain, sand/salt, flashlight, flares, blankets, first-aid kit.
- Make sure your radiator and cooling system are protected with antifreeze against sub-zero temperatures.
- During snowstorms when the streets are hazardous, try to avoid driving if possible, and attempt to plan your needs so as to have as few trips as necessary — and then only after streets are cleared.
- If your vehicle becomes stranded, please have it towed as soon as possible so that it will not hinder snow plowing operations. El Paso County can legally have a stranded private vehicle towed at the owner's expense if it obstructs the snow removal on a road.



El Paso County Public Services Department



EL PASO COUNTY
COLORADO

Snow and Ice Control Plan



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Snow and Ice Control Plan

El Paso County Public Services Department's mission is to provide an effective Snow and Ice Control program, which enables the motoring public to use the County road network during inclement winter weather. This is accomplished by maintaining a reliable road network during winter storms.

- **Objective** — The principle objective of the El Paso County Snow and Ice Control Program is to provide for the efficient flow of traffic within the County during periods of inclement winter weather. El Paso County Public Services remains prepared to manage the minor and major snowstorms that periodically occur. In order to monitor weather and road conditions and to accept calls from other agencies and the public, dispatchers are on duty continuously — 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The Department also coordinates closely with the Weather Bureau, Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office and others in an effort to obtain advanced information on impending storms or emergencies.
- **Snow Removal Equipment** — El Paso County Public Services Highway Section coordinates with Fleet Management Section, which maintains a fleet of snow removal equipment to include trucks with plows and sanders, motor graders, front-end loaders, snow blowers, and track-type dozers.
- **Staffing of Equipment** — El Paso County Public Services maintains its staffing at the level authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.
- **Hours of Operations** — After evaluating the severity of each snow or ice storm, the El Paso County Public Services Department will determine the hours of operation. If the snowstorm is of sufficient magnitude and duration, equipment will be mobilized at any time and will operate on a 24-hour per day basis until the roads are opened.
- **Budget Constraints** — Due to budget constraints, the Board of County Commissioners may limit snow removal operations.
- **Plowing and Sanding Standards** — El Paso County Public Services does not have a bare pavement policy. Limited sanding may be performed during the winter storm. When the winter storm has stopped, the major sanding operation will commence, if warranted. Sanding is primarily done on hills, intersections and curves.
- **Anti-Skid Application** — The Public Services Department will use a variety of anti-skid products including, but not limited to, salt, sand, and chloride. The anti-skid products used will be consistent with generally accepted practices.
- **Routes and Priorities** — Operators and equipment are responsible for assigned routes in El Paso County during storms. If the storms are regional and not County-wide, equipment and operators in those areas where no snow removal or ice control operations are required will move into those areas where such operations are required. Priorities have been established on roads and streets within the jurisdiction of the El Paso County Public Services Department. The main priority will be to provide plowed roads for emergency vehicles to respond to emergencies involving human life and safety.
- **Paved Road System** — The paved system is generally plowed and sanded by trucks.
 - **Paved Priority One Roads** are defined as all paved roads that are identified on the El Paso County Major Transportation Corridor Map as major arterials. The area of the County on this map is located west of Peyton Highway. Priority One Roads east of Peyton Highway are identified as all paved roads located on section lines.
 - **Priority Two Roads** are defined as roads that collect traffic from subdivision roads and allow traffic circulation within residential areas, while providing channels to the major arterial system.
 - **Priority Three Roads** are defined as paved residential roads minus Priority Two Roads.

The snow will be plowed on the subdivision roads when time, available funds, and equipment permit.

- **Non-Paved Road System** — The Non-paved road system is generally plowed by motor graders.
 - **Non-paved Priority One Roads** are defined as gravel roads located on section lines.
 - **Non-Paved Priority Two Roads** are defined as roads allowing traffic circulation within residential neighborhoods while providing channels to the major arterial system.
 - **Non-Paved Priority Three Roads** are defined as roads which are residential in nature minus Non-Paved Priority Two Roads. The snow will be plowed on the subdivision roads when time, available funds, and equipment permit.
- **Authorization to Close County Roads as the Result of a Severe Winter Storm** — As the result of a severe winter storm the County Engineer, in consult with the Director, may decide to close a portion or all of the County's road network.
- **Public Services Department Response to the Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** — During emergencies the Public Services Department will provide an employee to support the needs of the Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Center.
- **Search and Rescue** — The Public Services Department will assist in search and rescue operations as requested by the Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Division or policing authorities.
- **Severe Winter Storms** — During severe winter storms with high winds and/or minimal visibility, the Public Services Department will not mobilize any equipment until conditions have improved to such a degree that snow removal operations do not endanger the operators, the risk of equipment damage is minimized, and the possibility of accidents is reduced. When severe winter storm conditions warrant, the Public Ser-

vices Department may forego the normal snow removal and ice control plan and issue orders to open as many roadways as possible one lane in width before widening operations commence. Severe winter storm conditions may result in the closure of a portion or all of the County's road network.

- **Assisting Motorists Whose Vehicle is Stuck** — In non-residential areas plow operators are encouraged to assist motorists whose vehicles are stuck and drivers are stranded. The County's plow operators may call on the two-way radio to Transportation Dispatch and request assistance, or the private vehicle driver can sign a release form and the plow operator may pull out the private vehicle.
- **Contractors** — During severe winter storm conditions, the Public Services Department may hire private contractors to assist in opening the County's road network.
- **Driveways and Private Roads** — The Public Services Department will not remove the snow from driveways and private roads, including the portion of those driveways and private roads that are in the County's road right-of-way. The Public Services Department may maintain a list of private contractors that could remove snow from driveways and private roads. The County will not pay for snow removal from driveways and private roads. During snow removal operations El Paso County Public Services Department will not assume any responsibility for damage to driveways and private roads intersecting County roads. During snow removal operations, driveway and private road approaches may be obstructed. The Public Services Department will not assume any responsibility to open driveways or private roads that are obstructed. Damage to driveway and private road culverts during snow removal operations will be investigated and if the top of the culvert is less than 12" below the roadway shoulder, the County will not assume any liability for the damage.
- **Landscaping** — During snow removal operations El Paso County Public Services Department will not assume any responsibility

for damage to any landscaping located within the County's road right-of-way.

- **Mailboxes, Newspaper Boxes and Driveway Monuments** — Mailboxes within the County's right-of-way are installed at the risk of the owner. The Public Services Department does not assume the responsibility to clear snow around the mailboxes to ensure mail delivery. The County does not assume any legal responsibility for damage to mailboxes, mailbox posts, driveway entry monuments, or newspaper boxes. If damage does occur, the owner can notify El Paso County's Risk Management Section. Risk Management will investigate the incident and determine the disposition of such incident according to the guidelines approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- **Trash Cans** — Trash cans should not be placed in the County's right-of-way. The County will not accept any responsibility for damage to trash cans during snow removal operations.
- **Dead Animals** — Privately owned animals that are injured or have died in the County's right-of-way must be removed by the owner.
- **Sidewalks** — All sidewalks adjacent to private property are the responsibility of the private property owners or tenants to remove the snow.
- **Ice Control Barrels** — Ice control barrels containing anti-skid material may be placed at strategic locations at the discretion of the Public Services Department.
- **Vehicles Impeding Route** — If a vehicle is encountered during snow removal and/or ice control operations, that has been abandoned or parked within the right-of-way which impedes snow removal operations, the County's operator may hook his or her equipment to the vehicle and move the vehicle to a location that allows the operator to continue on his or her route. A policing authority may tow the vehicle according to policy, or as otherwise authorized by law. The County will not assume any responsibility for damage to the vehicle.

- **Plowing of Private Roads and Driveways** — El Paso County Public Services Department will not perform any snow removal operations on private roads or property, unless the department has received a request from policing authorities or the Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Division.

- **Plowing Snow onto County Right-of-Way From Private Property** — The practice of pushing snow into and leaving it on El Paso County roadways endangers the traveling public, as well as County plow operators. The statutes of the State of Colorado make it unlawful for a person to place an obstruction on the County's roadways. El Paso County residents may receive a warning and/or a summons for snow pushed onto the County's roadways from driveways, sidewalks, and private parking lots.

Telephone Calls from the Public — The Public Services Department appreciates calls from the public advising of weather/road conditions or other emergencies. Sometimes this is the primary method by which we are alerted to problems that may exist. Our plow operators are directed to complete the plowing and sanding of their particular geographic area based on a pre-assigned priority.

Your patience during weather emergencies is very much appreciated. It is simply impossible to clear all roads immediately. Winter weather in El Paso County can range from sunny and mild, to frigid and snowy. One can expect that there will be periods of snow to occur in this rather high altitude at various times from October through April of any given year. These storms, although consistently light to moderate in intensity, should not allow El Paso County residents to be lulled into a state of being unprepared for the occasional heavy snow storm with blizzard conditions that we sometimes receive.

Here are some reminders that can assist you in preparing for heavy snow conditions:

In Your Home

- Have a battery-operated radio available to receive emergency information on weather, utility, and street conditions.