

QUESTIONS ABOUT SNOW REMOVAL

Q: Number of miles of road plowed during and after a snow storm.

A: Approximately 100 miles multiplied by two (two way roads) totaling 200 miles

Q: How many passes are made to clear a section of road?

A: Usually it is four passes but some of the wider roads require six (this is for both directions)

Q: Number of hours one driver works plowing when the City clears the roads after the snow storm?

A: This is dependent on the storm but if the storm drops three inches then stops it is a minimum of 8-9 hours straight, those that do cul-de-sacs are closer to the nine hours. If the storm continues after 3" then it is approximately two additional hours for each inch beyond that. Every year there is at least one storm that we have plowed for 20+ hours straight before being about to go home.

Q: Number of people called out to plow during a bad snow storm?

A: (There is no good snow storm) so for all snow storms 22 from Public Works and 3 from Parks for a total of 25 are called out. The other parks department employees are separately in charge of snow removal in the park areas, city buildings and senior center

Q: Amount of salt purchased each year for roads/snow?

A: We use salt not sand but this is dependent on the type of storms and how many we get but average per year would be about 1,042 tons at roughly \$37.00 per ton. That is approximately \$38,600.00.

Q: Number of vehicles used when clearing the roads?

A: We use 12 large trucks for the roadways, 13 small pickups for clearing the cul-de-sacs.

Q: Amount budgeted in 2018-2019?

A: We budgeted \$70,000. This includes the cost of plow blades, sand and repair materials and supplies. Fuel and manpower wages are budgeted separately.

Q: Describe what it is like to plow a street; for instance speed needed to push snow, condition of roads, maneuvering a large truck on icy roads, dodging parked cars, crazy drivers and irate residents.

A: The best time for us to plow is in the middle of the night because there are fewer obstacles to dodge and move around but Mother Nature is not always so cooperative.

It is helpful when there are no vehicles/trailers parked on the road ways (as per City Code). It is also helpful when garbage cans are not on the street but we know this is not always possible to avoid.

It is the policy of the City that plow drivers do not stop to talk to residents. The only time they are allowed to stop is in case of an accident in which emergency personnel are called.

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A: The best time for us to plow is in the middle of the night because there are fewer obstacles to dodge and move around but Mother Nature is not always so cooperative.

When plowing, the speed is between 15-20 miles per hour depending on the condition of the snow. If the snow is a wet snow it is heavier and we cannot move as swiftly because of the weight of the snow and the damage that it can cause when being thrown from the plow blades. If the snow is dry it is lighter and allows us to move a bit faster.

The biggest problem we face when plowing are obstacles in (or near) the roadways, which include, overhanging trees, cars or other vehicles parked on the roadway, mailboxes and garbage cans in those areas that have service on the day of a storm.

Because we live on the side of a mountain the grade of the streets is sometimes an obstacle that we have to work with. The heavier trucks work better than the small trucks because they can push snow uphill, lay salt and with 4x4 can move up and down the steeper slopes with somewhat of ease. The smaller trucks have a more difficult time because they just don't have the power to push heavy snow uphill and not lose traction or get stuck. Our drivers have learned to work with the terrain as much as possible and allow gravity to assist in the moving of the snow. Meaning rather than pushing uphill, they will push downhill as much as possible.

Children are probably the scariest obstacle we deal with. Children like to burrow into the large piles of snow and they are not always visible to the driver.

Residents get very frustrated at the snowplow driver for several reasons. If their vehicle is stuck the residents don't understand that we cannot help them. Our job is to clear the roads, if we stopped to help every stranded motorist we would never get the roads clear and probably would cause more harm than good.

The biggest frustration that we see from the residents is, that as we plow the snow it is put into their driveways. With a wet, heavy snowfall this could mean large chunks of snow. The residents don't understand that this is not intentional, it is just what happens. We have encouraged residents to not clear their driveways until the plows have passed so they don't have to clear their driveways more than once but sometimes they just can't wait. We would love to be able to have the time and manpower to design the snow removal so that no one had to clear around their mailboxes or driveways but that is just not feasible.

We would like the residents to understand that throwing their snow from their driveways and sidewalks into the roadway is a citable violation and is also a road hazard. If someone

should be hurt or in a crash because of their snow removal into the roadway that homeowner could be liable for damages.

The other thing that residents don't understand is that for us to have gotten to work to clear the roads for their safe travel we have had to travel the roads when they were not so safe and once we are done with the minimum eight hour to ten hour shift of snow removal we have to go home and clear our own driveways because the plows have done the same thing to our driveways that we have had to do to theirs. How ironic for those of us that live in North Ogden and have plowed past our own driveways.

The eight-ten hour shift of snow removal also doesn't reflect that the drivers have a full eight-hours shift that we have just completed or have to report to in order to get our regular work assignments completed because when we are plowing our everyday work is just sitting their waiting for us.

Q: Any other information you think might be useful for residents to know about snow removal.

A: Snowplow drivers are forbidden from stopping for a resident or any other reason unless that driver has been directly involved in a crash.

We appreciate the waves (using all fingers of the hand) but we get more of the one finger waves than we care to count.

We get threatened with shaking fists and shovels.

We have had shovels thrown at our trucks, we have had people hit our trucks as we go past them and in the past have been threatened with guns. All of these threats are illegal and we are required to report these incidents to the police.