



CITY of RIFLE

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

We all love living in Colorado, but of course that means mountains and snow. This letter is to briefly describe the general policy for snow removal, enacted in 2014.

Plowing of snow from city streets typically starts within one hour **AFTER** there is **two (2) inches or more of accumulation.**

Snow is removed first from busy arterial streets (Priority One) and second, from driving lanes of less busy collector streets (Priority Two). Lastly, from residential streets (Priority Three). The City's primary interests are heavily used routes, emergency routes, and school routes. Those will be done first and, in extended storms, potentially done repeatedly before lower priority streets.

Snow removal may include plowing, stockpiling in designated "melt" areas, stockpiling for later pickup, and sanding/salting steep slopes and critical stopping areas. Designated melt areas may include ends of streets, parking spaces, centers of cul-de-sacs, road shoulders, etc. Snow storage piles may not be removed until major roads are appropriately cleared, priority three streets are addressed if needed, and/or another storm is not foreseen in the near term. In some cases snow storage piles that are not a hazard or problem for traffic may be left to melt entirely.

The City's Snow and Ice Control Plan formally establishes the priorities as follows: please go to <http://www.rifleco.org/documentcenter/view/6378> for the map associated with the below descriptions (it is too small to print for the mailer).

Priority One (red): Major arterials streets which carry the most traffic, plus important two lane thoroughfares. Examples include Railroad Avenue, Airport Road, 16th Street, W. 24th Street, Birch Avenue. These streets are always first on our list and may be re-plowed before priority two streets are plowed a first time, depending on the intensity and duration of a storm.

Priority Two (blue): Heavily-used two lane collector streets and streets which serve commercial and industrial zones. Only when priority one streets are sufficiently addressed can we then divert our attention to this second tier of streets.

Priority Three (green): All remaining streets, including residential areas. Priority three streets are typically not routinely plowed and de-iced during the winter months because their lower traffic volumes and traffic speeds do not typically warrant the expense. Snow must accumulate to 4"-6" on priority three streets that are flat before the city will plow any snow from these streets. The plowing of snow from Priority Three Routes will take place **ONLY after Priority One and Two have been completed** and weather has slowed enough to allow resources to be used on Priority Three Routes.

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However, on a case by case basis, when snow accumulations are such that residents may have difficulty driving to the nearest designated plow route, City or private contractors may be deployed to clear a path down the center third of each street. Snow depths, daytime temperatures and the time of year will be factored into the decision to plow or not plow residential streets.

Please note: All residents and business owners are responsible for opening up and clearing their own private driveways.

City residents are required by Municipal Code and City Ordinance to clear snow from their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall's end (Section 11-1-40 and associated Ordinance 24-2015, available on the same City website.) When residents fail to do this, school children and other pedestrians are forced to walk on either snow-packed or icy sidewalks, or out in the street itself. Either scenario may lead to serious injury.

To report an un-shoveled sidewalk, please call the City's Code Enforcement Division at 665-6500. After providing ample notice to the offending residence, the City will levy both a removal fee and a fine if it must clear such a walk.

When shoveling your walk, please pile the snow on your lawn, **NOT in the street**. Piling or blowing snow into a public street is not allowed by Municipal Code because it can present a potential traffic hazard, and can also block the flow of drainage. If your sidewalk is still icy after being shoveled, apply a de-icing agent available for purchase at most grocery, discount and hardware stores.

Remember--if City snowplows bury adjacent sidewalks during their street snow removal efforts, The City will remove this snow within 48 hours, at no expense to the affected residence.

For snow removal questions, please call (970) 456-6701.

Thank you for your cooperation! In light of the winter weather, be safe, take a little extra time, and thank you for your patience!