



Snow and Ice Response Policy 2025 – 2026

Department of Public Works

City of Maize

Snow & Ice Response Procedures

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The City of Maize provides an immediate and efficient response to weather-related traffic hazards to protect the traveling public and maintain essential services. Many factors determine the City of Maize's response to a snow or ice event including the forecast, timing, intensity and duration of the storm, along with the temperatures before, during and after the storm. All the factors determine the staff time and material required to effectively manage the snow and ice efforts.

The primary objectives of these procedures are to:

- Reduce hazards from inclement road conditions for motorists.
- Ensure essential services and emergency response services are maintained.
- Maintain safe and passable school routes and access to key facilities.

Snow and Ice Removal Priorities

First Priority: Arterial Routes as designated in the Snow Route Map, emergency routes and essential municipal facilities.

Second Priority: Collector routes and streets serving schools, medical centers and commercial areas.

Third Priority: Identified pedestrian/bike pathways and non-critical routes.

Priority Facilities: City Hall, Police Department, Public Works Facilities, EMS and Fire Station.

Note: County roads and KDOT state highways outside Maize's corporate limits are maintained by those jurisdictions, with limited overlapping assistance provided by Maize Public Works.

Snow Response Procedures

Each snow and ice event is unique with many variables including temperature, timing and traffic. Based on these factors, the below guidelines may vary.

0 - 2" - Snow removal is typically not necessary for accumulations less than 2 inches; Salt/sand material may be applied to roadways, intersections and bridges as needed.

2" - 6" - Removal begins as soon as practical after snowfall ceases, or during storms if required to maintain public safety.

6" + - Larger snow events typically require ongoing removal operations until the storm ceases. Roadways will be plowed multiple times throughout any large snow event to maintain traffic safety.

Plowing Operations

Plowing operations will typically begin once snowfall has reached over 2 inches and the storm has passed. Storms with larger amounts of snowfall will require ongoing snow removal operations. Multi-lane roadways will be plowed from the center towards the curb or ditch creating a windrow. The City of Maize will not be responsible for clearing private drives and entrances along snow routes but may do so as resources and personnel become available.

Salt/Sanding Operations

Salt/Sand is applied as a mix to lower the freezing point of water and increase traction. Salt is most effective above 15° but sunlight, traffic and ground temperature greatly affect salts melting efficiency.

- Salt/sand is typically applied during most snow and ice events. Bridges, intersections and arterials will be treated first.
- Salt/sand is only applied after plowing has been completed to avoid excess material waste.
- All vehicle or pedestrian accidents caused by slick conditions will be treated as priority response areas.

Staff Response Procedures

Regular Hours: Public Works monitors conditions and deploys resources as necessary.

Off-Duty Hours: Public Works on-call staff monitor conditions; Police may notify Public Works of needed response.

Public Works crews may operate 24 hours a day during severe storms.

All plowing and salt/sand operations are expected to be completed within 48 hours after the storm passes. Crews will continue to monitor any areas prone to melting and refreezing or drifting and treat accordingly.

After the Storm

Property Damage:

- The City will repair mailboxes damaged by city plows (temporary repairs immediately; permanent repairs when weather permits).
- Damage to sprinkler systems, landscaping, or decorative items in the right-of-way is the property owner's responsibility.

Right-of-Way Repair:

- Grass damage caused by plows will be repaired by Public Works when weather and scheduling allow.
- City is not responsible for cleanup of sand or dead grass due to de-icing materials.

Assistance to Motorists:

- City vehicles will not tow, push, or otherwise move stranded vehicles or clear private property.
- Vehicles abandoned in roadways during snow emergencies may be towed.

Questions and Concerns

- Calls for service should be avoided early in a storm, as it may take several hours for plows to reach every area.
- For any questions or concerns, contact Maize Public Works at 316-722-4854 during regular business hours.

Frequent Questions

Why don't you plow every street in Maize?

Maize does not currently have the resources or personnel to plow every street in Maize. Plowing of snow may create a large build up of snow at private drives and entrances potentially blocking access to and from your residence or business.

Why doesn't Maize have official snow emergency routes?

At this time, Maize manages without parking bans, as most high-volume streets already restrict parking or are wide enough for plows.

Why is snow left at the end of my driveway?

Plows must maintain a minimum speed to move snow effectively. Unfortunately, snow buildup at driveways is unavoidable.

Why aren't all sidewalks cleared?

The City does not have sufficient personnel or equipment to clear every sidewalk. Designated sidewalks may be cleared to provide access to schools and priority facilities. Property owners remain responsible for their frontage sidewalks.

