

City of Lubbock, Texas
Public Works Department

Subject: City of Lubbock Snow and Ice Removal Policy

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

Approved by:



James Loomis, City Manager



L. Wood Franklin, P.E., Director of Public Works



Mike Gilliland, Public Works Superintendent

Applies To: Public Works Department and All City Personnel

Introduction

In order for a snow and ice removal program to be effective, a written policy must be established. This policy will guide City Staff with the Public Works Department with snow and ice management efforts within the City limits of Lubbock, Texas. This policy will not only give snow removal crews guidelines but will also inform the general public of the procedures being followed so that they may have a better understanding of the City's snow and ice management efforts.

The City of Lubbock will strive to maintain safe conditions for drivers observing winter driving conditions. It is the first priority to provide mobility and access to hospitals and first responders. However, this is not an absolute "bare pavement" policy. The control of ice and the removal of snow is necessary to provide for movement of emergency vehicles, to permit the safe operations of school busses, and to facilitate the safe mobility of the public.

It must be recognized that, although this policy sets general guidelines to be followed, each storm has its own character with variable conditions such as wind, extreme temperatures, timing, duration, and moisture content. This policy must take into considerations these variables and remain a living document.

Determination of need for snow and ice control procedures

A variety of factors should be taken into account when deciding upon a course of action to treat roadways during a winter storm event. Product application combinations are chosen after Public Works personnel have evaluated many factors including, but not limited to:

- Air Temperature
- Pavement Temperature
- Humidity Levels
- Dew Point Temperatures
- Cloud Cover vs. Sunshine
- Type and Rate of Precipitation
- Weather Forecast
- Weather Radar Data
- Traffic Conditions (volume, route, etc.).

Operational treatments are continuously evaluated before, during and after a winter storm. Road treatment and applications are modified through all phases of a storm based on careful analysis of intensity, duration and type of precipitation.

The on call supervisors shall generally keep themselves apprised of these factors. However, the Department of Public Works relies heavily on information provided by weather reports issued by the National Weather Service, information provided by the City of Lubbock Office of Emergency Management, and road conditions reported by the media and the public.

The implementation of this policy shall be dictated by actual road conditions. Four (4) inches or more accumulation will generally prompt snow plowing and snow removal procedures to start. However, if the onset of winter conditions is accompanied by freezing rain or icing conditions, deicing procedures should be instituted prior to freezing road conditions.

The responsibility for activating personnel and equipment for winter operations shall primarily be with the Public Works Superintendent. During off duty hours, the on call supervisor shall be informed of changing roadway conditions.

Snow and Ice Control Policy

Deployment for Ice control, snow plow and removal equipment will commence at the direction of the Director of Public Works or the Public Works Superintendent. Services shall be provided in accordance with the following procedures.

Ice Control

The Public Works Department of the City of Lubbock shall strive to anticipate dangerous conditions brought on by freezing rain, black ice, or packed or freezing snow, and to apply sand and/or salt to intersections and any other area where ice is determined to constitute an unusual hazard to motor vehicles. Ice control procedures will commence when in the opinion of the Public Works Superintendent an unsafe condition for travel exists or is eminent. Deicing operations can vary greatly, depending if there is a need for citywide coverage or if slippery conditions are isolated. The Public Works Maintenance Department will remain in communication with Public Works Dispatch to assure that all areas of concern receive the proper attention. Attention is given to city Streets in accordance to the designated priorities as follows:

- Priority 1: Intersections of Thoroughfare Streets to Thoroughfare Streets (Arterials)
- Priority 2: Thoroughfare Streets (Arterials)
- Priority 3: Collector Streets

When icy conditions occur in the City, hazardous situations will present themselves in numerous locations at the same time. It must be realized that salting and sanding crews cannot be in all places at all times, and the effect of salting is not immediate. The City uses salt and sand mixture by spreader application for most deicing and slippery conditions. It should be noted that salt is less effective in extreme low temperatures. Salt is only 20% effective at 20 degrees as it is at 30 degrees. The City uses a salt and abrasive (sand) mixture to provide traction. These mixtures will be used at intersections, City maintained bridges, and hills where slippery conditions make driving hazardous. The use of salt is minimalized during extreme cold conditions due to salt being ineffective at these temperatures.

Anti-icing is a road maintenance strategy that tries to keep the bond between ice and the pavement surface from forming. It involves applying ice control chemicals prior to the very onset of a wet winter storm at hazardous locations. Using this strategy reduces the total chemical use and allows a higher level of service for the traveling public. The City of Lubbock Public Works Department uses a sand and salt mixture for asphalt paved areas and a sand and corrosion inhibitor on concrete paved areas.

Snow Removal

The Public Works Department of the City of Lubbock will not typically initiate snow removal operations until accumulations on the open ground approach four (4) inches. Where snow has reached a depth of approximately four (4) inches and is not expected to immediately melt, the Public Works Department may initiate snow control and removal operations. The snow operation may proceed according to the approved plan unless there is compelling reason to deviate from this plan. Each winter storm has its own character with variable conditions such as wind, extreme temperatures, timing, duration, and moisture content which can have an impact on the snow control and removal operations.

Snow control and removal will be conducted along streets according to their priority in facilitating the movement of emergency and first responder vehicles, school busses, and local traffic. The first priority will be those streets shown on the established **Emergency Snow Removal Route Map** approved by the City Manager and the Director of Public Works. These routes have been established in coordination with the City of Lubbock Office of Emergency Management, Lubbock Police Department, Lubbock Fire Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, CitiBus, and Texas Department of Transportation. The next priority will be the remainder of city streets with a thoroughfare designation. Areas leading to and adjacent to public schools will be cleared once the first priority streets have been cleared and are open to traffic and the clearing of thoroughfare streets is underway. Priorities can change if First Responders, or LP&L requests assistance related to public safety and to provide citizens necessary services.

The method of snow clearing and removal will be determined by the Department of Public Works in accordance with experience and existing field conditions. In most instances snow will be plowed to the center or outside travel lane and left in a berm for later removal. Snow removal does not occur every time plowing operations occur. This will vary depending on the timing of the storm, the amount of precipitation received, and the anticipated forecast. Removal of snow will be prioritized based on proximity to fire hydrants and storm drainage and inlets. The City will not be responsible for clearing individual driveways which may be blocked from these operations. No private driveways or parking lots will be plowed by the Public Works Department.

Stalled or stranded vehicles impede the ability to clear the roadway and motorists are advised not to travel in these conditions until the roads are cleared to traffic. City Personnel shall not tow or push stalled vehicles unless so directed by the Lubbock Police Department in the case of an emergency. City Personnel should not provide rides for stranded motorists. Assistance may be provided to the motorists by Public Works personnel contacting the Public Works Dispatch by radio.

Outside Assistance












In extreme instances, it may be necessary to outsource snow and ice control to supplement City of Lubbock resources. In these instances, use of Routine Maintenance Contracts or Purchase of Services should be considered. The appropriate resources should be consulted early in the process for these methods of outsourcing to be in effect in a timely manner.

CITY OF LUBBOCK

EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL ROUTE MAP

Population 243,736

OCTOBER 2016

-  COL Emergency Snow Routes
-  TxDOT Maintained Road
-  EMS Location
-  School
-  City Facility
-  Police
-  Fire Station
-  Airport
-  Citibus
-  Lubbock City Limits
-  Other City Limits

Approved October 1, 2016

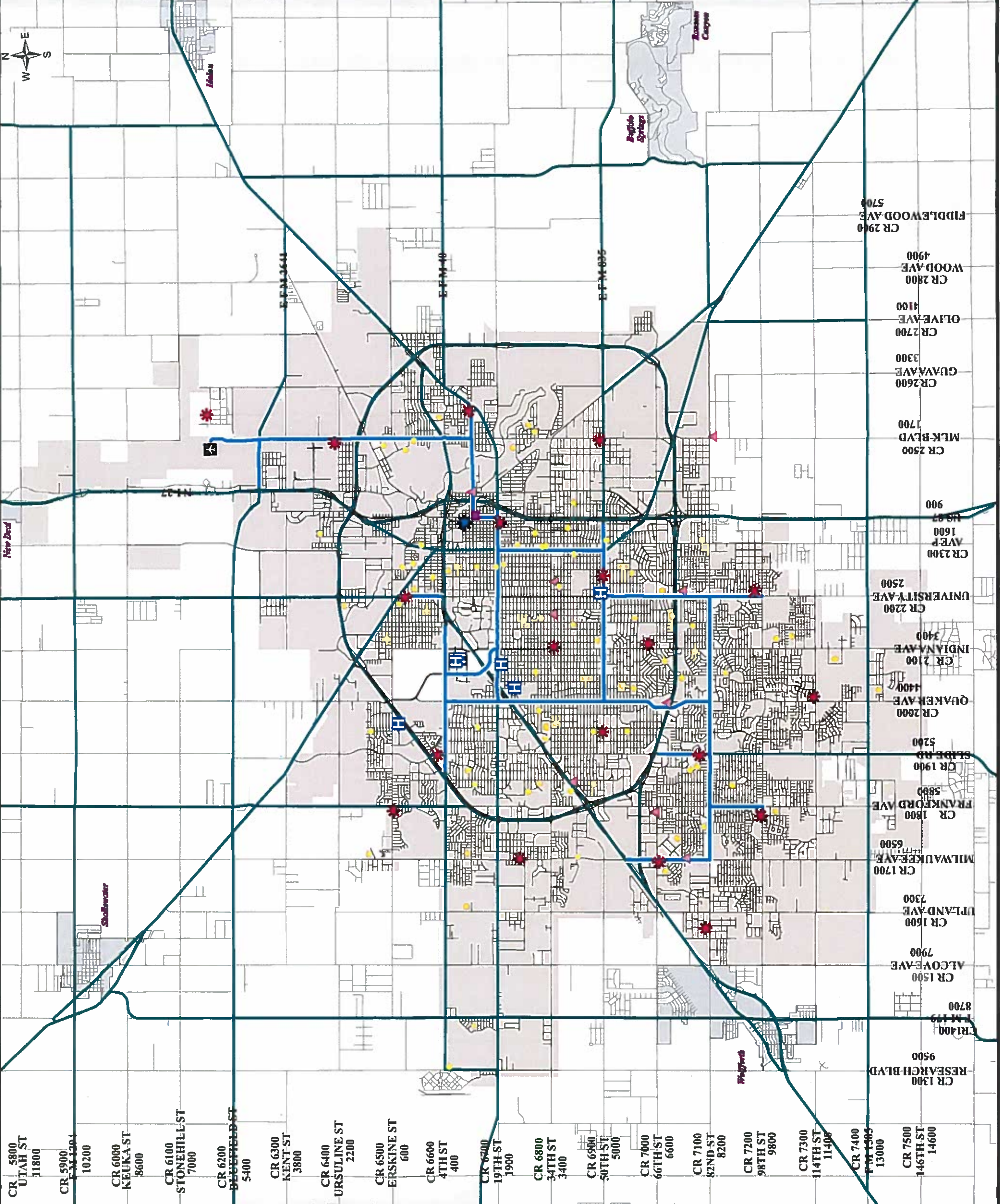
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CR 5800 UTAH ST 11800
 CR 5900 FM 1204 10200
 CR 6000 KEUKA ST 8600
 CR 6100 STONEHILL ST 7000
 CR 6200 BLUEFIELD ST 5400
 CR 6300 KENT ST 3800
 CR 6400 URSULINE ST 2200
 CR 6500 ERSKINE ST 600
 CR 6600 4TH ST 400
 CR 6700 19TH ST 1900
 CR 6800 34TH ST 3400
 CR 6900 50TH ST 5000
 CR 7000 66TH ST 6600
 CR 7100 82ND ST 8200
 CR 7200 98TH ST 9800
 CR 7300 114TH ST 11400
 CR 7400 FM 1505 13000
 CR 7500 146TH ST 14600
 CR 1300 RESEARCH BLVD 9500
 CR 1400 FM 119 8700
 CR 1500 ALCOVE AVE 7900
 CR 1600 UPLAND AVE 7300
 CR 1700 MILWAUKEE AVE 6500
 CR 1800 FRANKFORD AVE 5800
 CR 1900 SLIDE RD 5200
 CR 2000 QUAKER AVE 1400
 CR 2100 INDIANA AVE 3400
 CR 2200 UNIVERSITY AVE 2500
 CR 2300 AVE P 1600
 CR 2400 FM 87 900
 CR 2500 MLK BLVD 1700
 CR 2600 GUAVA AVE 3300
 CR 2700 OLIVE AVE 4100
 CR 2800 WOOD AVE 4900
 CR 2900 FIDDLEWOOD AVE 5700