

# Snow Removal and Ice Control



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## **I. Plan Details**

### ***a. Beginning to Plow***



#### **i. Determining When to Begin**

The Public Works Department will begin plowing roads when it is determined that at least two inches of snow can be measured on the road. Plows are ineffective in smaller amounts of snow. With the start of plowing, the Township Manager, Chief of Police or Director of Public Works declares a snow emergency.

During a Snow Emergency, parking is prohibited on all roads designated as Snow Emergency Routes. Parking is also prohibited on all cul-de-sacs during a storm until the snow is cleared.

Plowing crews are linked with the Township via two-way radios to assist police, fire, and ambulance personnel with emergency situations.

The Public Works Department plows 376 streets consisting of 83 miles of Township roads and 37 miles of state roads during snow storms.

### ***b. Plowing Streets***



#### **i. Plowing Priorities**

The first priority is to clear all primary (*main*) roads, including bus routes. This work generally takes six to eight hours after snow stops falling. Crews begin plowing secondary roads after clearing and opening all primary roads. These collector and through roads are usually cleared within 12-16 hours after snow stops falling. Crews then move on to side roads, dead-ends, and cul-de-sacs. ***Upper Merion Township has over 127 side streets, so please be patient.***

#### **ii. Clearing Capabilities**

During severe storms, crews need to make multiple passes on primary roads. These primary roads are the most heavily traveled roads in the Township and must be cleared and opened first to allow for the passage of emergency and general traffic. Plowing primary roads may have to continue until after the snow stops falling.

The Township's secondary roads and side streets are divided into ten route areas so that snow plowing can be accomplished as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Crews attempt to clear all streets to the curb line during snow removal. This may not be possible for properties with trees whose branches hang over the street (*providing a clearance of less than 11 feet*) or where mailboxes extend beyond the curb.

**c. Resident Guidelines:**



**☞ PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- Vehicles parked on snow emergency routes will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Trees must maintain a clearance of 11 feet near your curb line to allow plow equipment to pass.
- Residents are also advised to remove vehicles from these routes as soon as the snow begins to fall.
- Please keep all vehicles in private driveways, if possible.

**II. Primary & Secondary Roads Information**

**a. Primary Roads**



During severe storms, crews need to make multiple passes on primary roads. These primary roads are the most heavily traveled roads in the Township and must be cleared and opened first to allow for the passage of emergency and general traffic. Plowing primary roads may have to continue until after the snow stops falling.

**b. Secondary Roads**



The Township's secondary roads and side streets are divided into 10 route areas so that snow plowing can be accomplished as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For more information on the Township's street salting and plowing efforts in response to winter storms, review page 6 "**SNOW EMERGENCIES**".

**All**-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles may only be operated for emergency uses on Township roads during a declared Snow Emergency. They may be operated on private property with permission.

Please review Ordinance Code: [Chapter 137](#).

The following list includes all streets designated as primary streets and emergency routes. All other streets are either considered secondary (*collector and through*) streets or tertiary streets (*if they are dead-ends or cul-de-sacs*). Remember that **NO PARKING IS PERMITTED ON PRIMARY "SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES" (listed below) OR IN CUL-DE-SACS** during declared snow emergencies.

Primary & Secondary Roads			
Abrams Road*	Croton Road*	Jones Road/Shoemaker Lane	Shoemaker Road
Allendale Road	Deep Hollow Road	Keebler Road	South County Line Road
Anderson Road	DeKalb Pike (Rt.202)**	King of Prussia Road*	South Gulph Road*
Arden Road	First Ave	Kirk Ave.	Springhouse Road
Balligomingo Road**	Fletcher Road	Mall Blvd.	Stewart Street
Beidler Road*	Flint Hill Road*	Matsonford Road**	Swedeland Road*
Brooks Road*	Geerdes Blvd.	Moore Road	Town Center Road
Brookwood Road	General Knox Road	New Gulph Road*	Trinity Lane*
Brower Road	Goddard Blvd	North Gulph Road*	Upper Gulph Road*
Brownlie Road	Guthrie Rd.	Prince Frederick St.	Valley Brooke Road
Caley Road	Gypsy Road	Old Gulph Road*	Valley Forge Road*
Chelsea Drive	Hansen Access Road	Pugh Road	Warner Road
Church Road: W.* & E	Hansen Road	Pulaski Drive	Weadley Road
Conrad Drive	Henderson Road*	Radnor Road*	Wills Boulevard
Country Lane	Holstein Rd. (Rt. 320)*	Renaissance Blvd.	Yerkes Road
Covered Bridge Road	Horizon Dr.	River Road*	
Crooked Lane*	Hughes Road	Ross Road	
Crossfield Road	Jefferson Street*	Saulin Road	

\* State roadways plowed by the Township.

\*\* Plowed by PennDOT, **NOT** Upper Merion Township (includes I-76, Route 422, and the PA Turnpike)

### III. Shoveling

#### a. *Guidelines*



- Do not clear sidewalks until plowing equipment **HAS PASSED**, or your hard work may be for nothing.
- Throwing, shoveling or plowing snow from sidewalks or driveways into the street is strictly prohibited by the Township's Ordinance Code: [Chapter 137.1](#).
- 2-foot wide path of sidewalk must be cleared by the abutting property owner within 24 hours after snow stops falling. (See Ordinance Code: [Chapter 137.2](#) and [Chapter 137.5](#)) If more than 12 inches of snow falls, the time limit is extended to 48 hours.
- Commercial Parking Lots - Dumping snow or ice onto Township property or streets, or plowing snow across a street is strictly prohibited. The offense is punishable by civil action, with a fine of up to \$1,000.

Please review Ordinance Code: [Chapter 137](#).

### IV. Snow Emergencies



During a snow emergency, parking is prohibited on all roads designated as snow emergency routes. Parking is also prohibited on all cul-de-sacs or hanging over onto roads from driveways during a storm until the snow is cleared. The Public Works Department plows 376 streets consisting of 83 miles of Township roads and 37 miles of state roads during snow storms.

Plowing crews are linked with the Township via two-way radios to assist police, fire, and ambulance personnel with emergency situations.

Residents are also advised to remove vehicles from these routes as soon as the snow begins to fall.

Please keep all vehicles in private driveways, if possible.

**All**-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles may only be operated for emergency uses on Township roads during a declared Snow Emergency. They may be operated on private property with permission.

For more information, contact the Upper Merion Township's Public Works Department at 610-265-2606.