



City of Kenai
Streets Department
Snow Removal Policy

Summary

The City of Kenai maintains approximately 46 miles of paved and 15 miles of gravel roads. When considering the different widths of roads, we plow approximately 144 lane miles. Many of our roads require four or more passes to clear snow back to the edges of the Right of Ways. In addition to the streets, eleven parking lots, forty cul-de-sacs, and miles of bike paths and sidewalks are cleared.

The Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) maintains the Kenai's Spur Highway (KSH), Bridge Access Road, and Beaver Loop Road. Their maintenance department can be reached at 262-4414. The City of Kenai assists in snow removal on the DOT bike path and sidewalks along the KSH within the City limits.

The Streets Department has six employees who utilize four graders, two trackless snow blowers, two frontend loaders, two sander trucks, and two crew trucks with snowplows to perform winter road maintenance.

The City of Kenai Public Works Department can be reached at 283-8236.

What is our goal?

The City of Kenai's main goal is to provide expedient and efficient snow removal operation to maintain safe driving conditions. This is not an absolute bare pavement policy. Sometimes leaving snow on the roads provides for better traction. While this policy sets general guidelines to be followed, each storm has its own character with variable conditions such as wind, temperatures, timing, duration, and moisture content. The policy must remain flexible and take into consideration these variables.

Who begins a snow removal operation?

The Street Department foreman shall keep apprised of changing weather and road conditions and initiates snow removal operations. Outside of normal working hours, the City relies on the observations of Police Department personnel to alert them to poor road conditions. The foreman uses weather reports issued by the National Weather Service to aid in preparation for snow and ice control deployments.

When are streets plowed?

Snow removal operations begin when unsafe conditions exist or are anticipated to exist soon. Snowfall accumulations of four or more inches also initiate a snow removal operation.

There are two separate snow removal operations. The first is during the storm itself and consists of quick passes with the plows to keep the roads and streets passable. Historically we complete the first plowing operation within 18 hours after snow stops falling.

The second operation consists of widening the cleared portion of the traveled ways, and cleaning up. This provides space to store snow when the next storm occurs, and it improves the safety and usability of the road. Cleanup does not occur every time plowing operations occur. The time required to complete cleanup will vary depending on many factors, including the timing and duration of the storms, the amount and type of precipitation received, equipment breakdowns, and available personnel.

Which streets are cleared first?

Priority 1 Main Streets (Arterials) include:

Main Street Loop, First Ave, Birch St, Fourth Ave, North and South Forest Dr, Redoubt Ave, Frontage Rd, West Tern Ave, Walker Ln, Lawton Dr, North Tinker Ln, Swires Rd, Marathon Rd, Airport Way, Willow St, Trading Bay, Granite Point St, Main St, Bidarka St, Fidalgo Ave, Barnacle Way, and Caviar St.

Priority 2 Secondary Streets (Collectors) include:

Spur view Dr, Senior Ct, Lake St, Marine Ave, Peninsula Ave, Bluff St, Broad St, Broad Way, Broadway Ct, South Main St, Overland Ave, Highland Ave, Cook Ave, Mission Ave, Alaska Ave, and Peterson Way.

Priority 3 Low Volume Residential Through Streets (Locals), Dead Ends, Cul-De-Sacs and Alleys

When heavy snows are occurring Priority 1 streets will be continually patrolled. Priority 2 and 3 streets will be patrolled as frequently as possible. The order in which streets are plowed will vary depending on factors including the order in which streets and subdivisions were plowed during the last event.

Gravel roads will not be plowed until and unless ice pack has formed on them. This protects the gravel road from being damaged by snow removal operations. They will be sanded as necessary.

During snow removal operations, we try to keep the graders and other snow removal equipment plowing rather than moving from one end of town to the other. Therefore, for operating efficiency, some lower priority streets may be done when equipment is in the area rather than doubling back later. Other reasons for deviations from these priorities include storm severity, equipment breakdown, time of day, and school bus schedules.

You left a snow berm in my driveway!

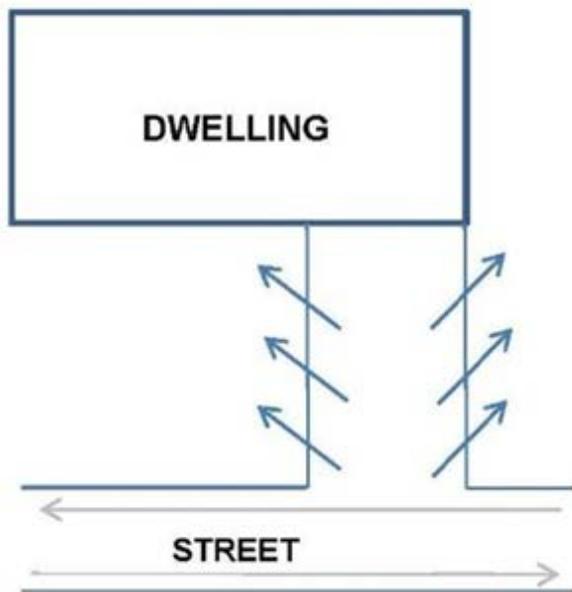
The City is not responsible for clearing snow berms from your driveway. We do our very best to minimize driveway snow berms by using snow gates on our equipment. During significant snowfall events, and at times when the snow is very wet and heavy, or if we experience equipment failure, we may not be able to use our snow gates effectively. This may result in a snow berm across your driveway. It is best to wait until we have finished plowing your street before shoveling out your driveway area that is adjacent to the road. This will help avoid shoveling the same area twice.

Pushing snow into or across roads.

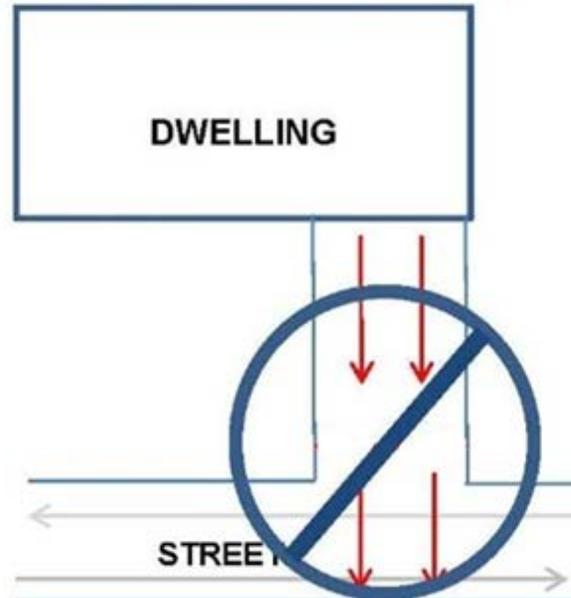
Per Kenai Municipal Code (KMC) 13.30.065 Depositing of snow and ice is restricted. It is a violation for any person to deposit or cause to be deposited any snow or ice on or against a fire hydrant or on any sidewalk, roadway or any loading or unloading areas of a public transportation system.

It is not the City's responsibility to manage snow that falls on private property. When snow is pushed into or across streets that the City maintains it can create a dangerous situation. When a grader is traveling at plowing speeds and strikes snow that has been deposited from private property it can cause the rear end of the grader to swing into oncoming traffic. It can also cause the operator to be shaken or jarred violently resulting in injury. Below is a simple illustration demonstrating the correct and incorrect manner in which to handle snow from your driveway. The penalty of up to \$500 is outlined in KMC 13.05.010.

CORRECT SNOW PLOWING



INCORRECT SNOW PLOWING



When are the streets sanded?

Sanding begins when unsafe conditions exist or are anticipated to exist soon.

The top priorities for sanding are the Priority 1 streets and all intersections. If significant snowfall is occurring, sanding may be suspended because the sand will be covered up by the snow. Rain on bare and/or snow packed roads are a serious problem in the Kenai area and can cause severe and dangerous driving conditions. During these conditions, it is difficult to keep adequate sand on the streets, and we advise extra caution during these periods. Good winter tires and studs are recommended during wintery months.

When icy conditions occur in the city, hazardous situations will present themselves in numerous locations simultaneously. Sanding crews cannot be in all places at all times. Please use caution when driving on snow and ice.

How can you help?

You can help yourself and us in several ways.

Always park your vehicle off the street. Per KMC 13.30.030 Night parking is prohibited on any City street between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. of any day from October 1 until May 1.

Advise your children never to play near or in a snow berm near the roadway or in parking lots.

Do not follow equipment too closely. Please be patient if you are required to wait behind a piece of snow removal equipment.

Drive at a speed that is safe for poor or worsening conditions.

Inform your snowplow contractor that it is illegal to push snow onto or across City streets.

If you have any questions please contact the Public Works Department at 283-8236 or PublicWorks@Kenai.City.