

TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD

SNOW EMERGENCY

WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is the Town's active response plan for when a snow storm is expected; special parking rules go into effect to allow all streets to be plowed curb-to-curb.



WHEN IS A SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARED?

Many factors will be considered before the Town declares a snow emergency including air and road temperatures, weather forecasts and snow accumulation. The Town will declare a snow emergency when snowfall accumulation is forecasted to be 2 inches or over but other factors could contribute to the declaration of a snow emergency even if snow accumulation is expected to be less than 2 inches. The Town will endeavor to provide as much notice as possible to residents when a snow emergency is declared.

WHEN DOES A SNOW EMERGENCY GO INTO EFFECT?

All vehicles must be removed from the street starting at midnight of the day the snow emergency is declared to allow Town crews to plow all streets curb-to-curb. On-street parking will be allowed the following morning starting at 7am during a declared snow emergency unless conditions do not allow it. If the duration of any snow emergency is more than a day, on-street parking will be prohibited on each day of the snow emergency from midnight to 7am.

WHO DO I CALL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE DURING A SNOW EMERGENCY?

For any snow related service requests during a snow emergency call DPW at 781-631-1750.

Police/Fire/Ambulance emergencies call 911.

The non-emergency Police Department phone line is: 781-631-1212.

The non-emergency fire department phone line is: 781-631-0142.



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HOW DO I FOUND OUT IF A SNOW EMERGENCY IS IN EFFECT?

PHONE: Call the Marblehead DPW (781) 631-1750 during normal business hours.



EMAIL: Subscribe to the Town's email distribution list through our website's homepage, www.marblehead.org and receive an email when a Snow Emergency is declared.



CODE RED: Sign up to receive an automated phone call and/or text message when a snow emergency is declared on our website's homepage, www.marblehead.org.



SOCIAL MEDIA: Follow the Marblehead Police Department on Facebook for information on when a snow emergency is



The Town will work with traditional media, MHTV and other communication platforms available to notify residents of a snow emergency and when it ends.

IF MY CAR IS TOWED, HOW DO I GET IT BACK?

If your vehicle is towed during a snow emergency you should call the Marblehead Police Department's non-emergency phone line at (781) 631-1212 to confirm the location of your vehicle. Towed vehicles will be stored at the Town's impound lot located at the transfer station, 5 Woodfin Terrace. Vehicles will be released only to registered owners. Owners will need to possess proof of ownership, proof of insurance, a valid driver's license, and proof that the fine has been paid in order to claim the vehicle. Bill's Auto Clinic, the Town's towing contractor, should be contacted at (978) 745-2087 to make arrangements to release the vehicle. If the vehicle is not claimed after a 72 hour period the vehicle will be towed to Bill's Auto Clinic at 2 Commercial Street in Salem.

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HOW MUCH WILL I BE CHARGED IF MY CAR IS TOWED?

Town Meeting approved an increase in the snow emergency violation ticket to \$100. If your vehicle is towed, you will also be charged a towing charge of \$108 for the tow, a storage charge of \$35 per day, and a mileage charge if the vehicle requires a tow to Bill's Auto Clinic Tow Yard.



HOW DO I REPORT A VEHICLE THAT NEEDS TO BE TOWED?

To report a vehicle that has not moved from the street during a snow emergency call the Marblehead Police Department non-emergency phone line at (781) 631-1212. During normal business hours you can also call Marblehead DPW at (781) 631-1750.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOVELING SIDEWALKS?

Although Marblehead does not have a bylaw requiring property owners to do so, the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks is greatly appreciated. This helps prevent children, the elderly, and the general public from walking in the street during dangerous driving conditions. Following each storm the Town of Marblehead clears designated sidewalks along designated school routes. It takes time to accomplish this task, and it is only done after all roads have been cleared.

SHOULD I CLEAR THE FIRE HYDRANT IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?

There are over 800 fire hydrants in Marblehead. The Town appreciates the assistance of our residents and businesses that clear the area around the fire hydrant. When shoveling hydrants, do not stand in the roadway, wear highly visible clothing and only clear snow from hydrants during daylight hours. Residents and businesses are reminded that it is illegal to cover hydrants, sidewalks or roadways with snow and or ice after any storm.



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DO I NEED TO CLEAR MY DRIVEWAY OF SNOW?

Clearing driveway openings is the responsibility of the property owner. While DPW tries to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed across driveways and exits, plow blades cannot be lifted as they pass by a driveway.

Unfortunately, snow will be plowed into driveways as we perform curb-to-curb plowing. You may wish to clear your driveway several times during the storm or wait until the storm and plowing operations have ended.

SHOULD I CLEAR THE CATCH BASIN IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?

If you are physically able, and it is safe to do so, please help us prevent street flooding by shoveling out catch basins near your home. Do not stand in the roadway, wear highly visible clothing and only clear snow from catch basins during daylight hours.

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS OR DELAYS?

In the event of snow, the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Police Department, Department of Public Works along with other area superintendents and the National Weather Service, decides whether to cancel school or delay opening. The School Department will notify parents of closure or delayed opening as early as possible utilizing the phone number in the Aspen System.



WWW.MARBLEHEAD.ORG

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WHY IS MY STREET NOT PLOWED FIRST?

The following is a general description of snow removal activities on Town streets:

Step 1: When a snowstorm begins, the DPW responds by salting main roads and bus routes. Salting serves two purposes: 1) to keep traffic moving safely and 2) to prevent the snow from bonding to pavement.

Step 2: Snow plowing typically begins when 2-3 inches of snow accumulates or is forecast. Over 40 Town plows, sanders, and other snow removal equipment can be mobilized and assigned to predetermined routes.

Step 3: Plowing continues until the snow stops and then post-storm salting will begin:

- Main streets and school bus routes are salted to achieve bare pavement conditions.
- Residential streets with hills and intersections are treated to improve traction.
- Flat streets are treated only if icy conditions exist.

When driving, please stay 200 feet behind any snowplow. Visibility is difficult for the snowplow operator.

Any vehicles parked on-street during a declared snow emergency will be subject to ticketing and towing.

