



University of WI-Superior Facilities Management

Campus Snow and Ice Removal Information

The purpose of the Campus Snow and Ice Removal Information is to educate the campus community as to the standard operating procedures used in the control of winter snow and ice conditions at UW-Superior. The intent of this document is to establish and provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and procedures used to combat snow and ice related conditions on campus sidewalks, parking lots and roads.

This document is to be used only as a guideline with the understanding that procedures will change as winter conditions vary and no two storms or snow falls are the same. Each winter storm has unique weather characteristics such as storm intensity, duration, wind, temperature and moisture content, all of which affect the procedures used to combat the winter conditions.

Snow/Ice Removal Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Facilities Management to provide effective snow and ice control with the personnel and equipment available, in an effort to maintain emergency access to all campus buildings, provide safe pedestrian walkways to all buildings and parking lots and to provide adequate parking areas for staff, student and visitor commuter traffic.

Personnel and Equipment:

UW-Superior's Grounds Crew is currently staffed with four (4) personnel who provide the majority of snow and ice control on campus. The campus auto mechanic is utilized as back-up staff for plowing in the event of a major winter storm and for equipment repair when necessary. The department also uses custodial staff on a callback procedure to assist in snow removal around building entryways.

The weather conditions are monitored on a regular basis in an attempt to predetermine personnel and equipment needed to combat an upcoming storm. Adjustments in both equipment and personnel are often made during the winter storm to most effectively manage the conditions.

Snow and ice removal equipment includes plow trucks, powered sweeper brooms, snow blowers, sand and salt spreaders and a front-end loader. Equipment may be used separately or in combination depending on the weather and snow and ice conditions.

The grounds department is overseen by the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds along with a lead worker (whom is one of the four grounds crew members). The lead worker makes the determination as to the number of employees called in for snow removal, the time

scheduled for the crew to work along with the equipment to be used. The lead worker consults with the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds as to the overall snow/ice removal process.

The grounds crew's four employees are each assigned to a different area of campus and with different equipment to be used depending on priority and area being opened. In any snow removal procedure, sidewalks and parking lots are first opened up by making initial passes to allow general access. The crew will later backtrack and make efforts to widen walks and lots.

Snow and Ice Control:

The UW-S campus has several snow removal areas consisting of emergency fire lanes and building accesses, sidewalks, roads and parking lots. The priority in maintaining these areas is as follows:

1. Fire lanes and emergency access to all buildings on campus. This is critical to assure access to emergency vehicles in the event of a fire or medical emergency.
2. Main sidewalks from the Crownhart and CMO residence halls to the Student Center. This allows a majority of on-campus student access to food service.
3. Main walkway entries to the academic buildings. This allows main access to buildings for students, staff and campus safety.
4. Parking lots and campus roads. Commuter parking lots will be plowed first with the general drive lanes in the residence hall parking lots done secondary. Resident hall parking lots will be cleared as time and schedules permit.
5. Secondary walks and connecting routes. These areas will be opened after all other priority access is open.

Special efforts will be made to accommodate those persons with special needs or a handicap.

If a major winter storm should occur on a holiday or at a time the campus is officially closed, only emergency vehicle access and the main entry walks of occupied Residence Halls are cleared. Areas around buildings with special events will be monitored and kept open as well as possible.

Facilities Management uses several callback lists for employees to assist in snow and ice control. Employees are called back on an as-needed basis and kept as long as is necessary. Employees are limited to 16 consecutive hours of work before a rest interval is required. Proper rest for the equipment operators is essential in order to assure everyone's safety.

When possible, snow removal is done either before or after regular campus hours in an effort to allow maximum snow/ice removal with the least interference of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Parking Lots:

Parking lots will be plowed with the priority of commuter lots first and resident hall student parking secondary. It should be understood that lots with vehicles parked in them make it very difficult to do an adequate job in snow removal. Efforts will be made to first open areas with no vehicle traffic in an effort to make room for in-coming vehicles.

If the surface of the parking lots becomes slippery and is determined to be a safety hazard, sand/salt will be spread in the main driving lanes and lot entrances.

During parking lot snow removal, it may become necessary for staff and students to park in a lot other than the one they normally park in until the preferred lot is cleared and available.

Sidewalks:

Every effort will be made to maintain all sidewalks to allow for safe pedestrian foot traffic. Conditions will be monitored to insure that icy or slippery surfaces are treated. Normally only a salt or calcium chloride product is used for sidewalks, if necessary and as a last resort to assure safe walks, a sand product may be used sparingly.

During regular staff hours, custodial staff is responsible for snow/ice control at each entryway to the campus buildings. It is their responsibility to maintain the walkways out to the point where the grounds vehicle's maintenance ends.

Snow Hauling/Disposal:

As snow banks build up around the parking lots, sidewalks and entrances, the grounds crew will remove excess snow and haul it to a snow dump. This is done to provide adequate parking in lots, assure visibility for pedestrians and vehicles, to make room for more snow and to help avoid flooding problems when the snow and ice melt.

Products and Their Uses:

The university uses a salt product (calcium chloride) to control ice and slippery conditions and to assist in breaking up compacted snow. The salt product will be used on sidewalks, roadways and parking lots. New products on the market are analyzed and tested to see if they meet the needs of the campus.

A sand/salt mix will be used on streets and parking lots to control slippery conditions for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The sand/salt mix will be used on sidewalks only as a last resort to maintain safe pedestrian traffic. The grounds crew personnel make every effort to minimize the use of any chemical or product for snow/ice control while at the same time maintaining proper safe surface conditions.

Information/Feedback/Complaints:

Facilities Management is always receptive to feedback on snow and ice removal activities. For reporting immediate concerns of slippery or other unsafe conditions, call ext. 8120. Report the problem in detail, icy, snow covered, slippery, etc.

Campus Facts:

Sidewalks- the campus consists of approximately 5-1/2 miles of walkways to maintain.

Parking lots- the campus consists of approximately 13 acres of parking lots to plow and remove snow.

Personnel- the snow removal crew consists of four (4) employees to cover snow/ice removal for the entire campus.

Traffic- the snow removal crew often times has to work around over 2000 pedestrians and approximate 1,500 vehicles traveling in and around the campus.