



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 weather.

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 students, staff and visitors.

Personnel and Equipment:

UW-Superior's Grounds Crew is currently staffed with four (4) personnel who do the majority of snow/ice control on campus. One (1) auto mechanic is utilized as back-up staff for snow removal. This position is also responsible for equipment repair if it becomes necessary during snow removal efforts. Facilities also uses custodial staff on a callback procedure to assist in snow removal around the building entryways.

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

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

The grounds department has oversight by the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds along with a lead worker (which 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 times the crew will work along with the equipment to be used. The lead worker consults with the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds regarding the overall snow/ice removal process.

As the grounds crew consists of four employees, each is assigned to a different area of campus with a different type of equipment according to 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 an effort to widen walks and lots.

Snow Removal Priorities:

The UW-S campus consists of five (5) primary snow removal priorities. These priorities are: emergency fire lanes, building entrances, sidewalks, roads and parking lots. The priority in maintaining these areas are as follows:

1. Fire lanes and emergency access to all buildings on campus. This is critical to assure access for 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 students access to food service.
3. Parking lots and campus roads. Commuter parking lots will be plowed first along with the general drive lanes in the residence hall parking lots. Resident hall parking lots will be cleared as time and schedules permit.
4. Main walkway entries to campus buildings. This allows main access to buildings for students, staff and campus safety.
5. Secondary walks and connecting routes. These areas will be opened after all other priority access is opened.

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

Facilities Management uses several callback lists for employees to assist in snow/ice control. Employees are called back on an as-needed basis and kept as long as necessary. Employees are limited to 16 straight hours of work before a proper rest period is required. Proper rest of the equipment operators is required to assure safety. If at all possible, snow removal efforts are done either before or after regular campus hours to reduce interference of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

General Parking Lots:

Parking lots will be plowed with the priority of commuter lots first and resident hall student parking as a secondary. If the surface in the parking lots becomes slippery and determined 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 all lots are cleared and available. It should be understood that lots with vehicles parked in them make it difficult to do an adequate job in snow removal. Efforts will first be made to open areas with no vehicle obstruction in order to make room for in-coming vehicles.

Resident Hall Parking Lots:

The drive lanes of all resident hall parking lots will be opened as conditions allow. Snow removal crews may be limited in the amount of snow removed if a number of student vehicles remain parked in the lots. Drive lanes will be opened to allow students an opportunity to move their vehicle from the parking area.

If snow accumulations greater than 6" occur, it will be necessary to plow entire parking lots. At this time efforts between Facilities Management, Residence Life and Parking Services will be made to coordinate the removal of all student cars from the lots. Students will be given 24 hours notice from Residence Life staff of when and where to move their vehicles. Under normal circumstances the lots will be cleared within two (2) days of the determination being made and notification provided.

Sidewalks:

Every effort will be made to maintain all sidewalks for safe pedestrian foot traffic. Conditions will be monitored to assure icy or slippery areas are treated. Every effort will be made to use only a salt product for sidewalks. 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 building entryway. Their responsibility is to maintain the walkways out a distance to where the grounds vehicles maintenance begins.

Snow Hauling/Disposal:

As snow banks build up around the parking lots, sidewalks and entrances, the grounds crew will remove excess snow when time allows. This is done to provide adequate parking in lots, assure visibility for pedestrians and vehicles, to allow room for additional accumulation and to minimize flooding problems when 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 may be used on sidewalks 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/ice removal activities. For reporting immediate concerns of slippery or other unsafe conditions, call Facilities Management at ext. 8120 or Public Safety at ext. 8114. Please give the location and report the problem in detail, such as icy/slippery or snow covered areas.

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.

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