

# Westminster Snow & Ice Control Policy

Westminster's goal during any snowstorm is to keep primary and secondary streets open and safe for the motoring public. In addition to primary and secondary streets, priorities are given to: streets adjacent to hospitals, police, fire/rescue squad stations, schools, RTD bus routes, and dangerous intersections, hills, or curves on residential streets.

All remaining residential streets only receive service after the above priorities are attended to, and snow accumulations are greater than 8 inches.

Please refer to the attached map for an outline of primary and secondary routes.

- Priority 1. Primary Routes** - All arterials and major collector streets considered to be the minimum network which must be kept open to provide a transportation system covering the major traffic volume streets and providing access to hospitals, police stations, fire stations and rescue squad units.
- Priority 2. Secondary Routes** - Collector streets and select residential providing access to emergency stations, schools and bus routes.
- Priority 3. Residential Areas** – Dangerous intersections, hills, and curves.

## Storm Categories

**Category 1:** 1 inch or less of snow resulting in icy conditions throughout the city. All primary, secondary, hazardous stops, hills and emergency facilities are salted.

**Category 2:** 2 inches of snow resulting in slick, slushy conditions throughout the city. Primary and secondary streets, plus hazardous stops, hills and all emergency facilities are plowed and salted.

**Category 3:** Greater than 2 inches of snow with wind causing blizzard conditions. All primaries are plowed and salted until the storm subsides, then secondary and residential affected by drifting are plowed and salted.

**Category 4:** A major snowstorm greater than 8" of snow, possible closures due to drifting and blizzard conditions. Concentration is given to primaries and emergency facilities. Priorities to secondary and residential streets are plow and salt as soon as possible thereafter. The acceptable level of service for residential roadways is to provide a navigable surface; this is, the street may have snow or packed ice on it but plowing and material application allows a vehicle to travel the street safely on at least one center lane. When plowing is required, windrows of snow across driveways are created and opening of driveways are the responsibility of the property owner.

## Major Snow Emergency (Category 4) Declared

**Stage 1** - Blizzard conditions – average duration 12-18 hours

- City Hall Emergency Coordination Center (City Hall ECC) opened
- MSC Street Operations Emergency Center (MSC EOC) opened
- Call Center at MSC EOC is staffed 24 hours a day until post storm operations are completed.
- Contractual assistance is deployed
- Primary roadways and emergency facilities maintained

**Stage 2** – Snow / Wind Ends – average duration 12 hours

- Widen primaries
- Service secondary
- Plow/Salt residential
- Residential streets may remain hard packed but accessible until snow melts

**Stage 3** – Post Storm – (simultaneous with Stage 2) – average duration 12 hours

- Hauling operations
- Intersection cleanup
- Bus shelters and cluster mailboxes cleaned up
- Storm drains serviced as necessary