DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS

Hickory Main Highway Facility
1807 N. Fountain Green Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21015
410-638-3279 OR 410-638-3280
Pothole Hotline: 410-638-3376
Fax Number: 410-879-8263

Barry Glassman
County Executive

HARFORD COUNTY MARYLAND

SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

… working till the plows come home!

COUNTY SNOW PLOW TRACKER..

This will be activated on snow events of 6" or greater and, to avoid miscommunication over which roads are "complete" and which roads are still being cleared, it will not be visible online until the precipitation is nearly **finished** and the crews begin the process of final clearing for the County's 1,000+ miles of road.

http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/snowplowtracker

REPORTING ROAD PROBLEMS

If you are calling to report a current road condition or hazard, we ask that you go to

http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/YouClickWeFix

and fill in all pertinent information. We will be monitoring the information submitted

IF THIS IS A TRUE EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911

January, 2016

WHEN IT SNOWS

When it snows, DPW employees concentrate on keeping the major County roads and primary neighborhood roads passable. These roads are cleared as soon as possible after the storm is over.

Application of materials begins as soon as snow starts to fall. Plowing begins when snow is three or more inches deep and the temperature indicates that there will be no melting. Even after plowing, snow that has been hard packed by traffic often remains on the street, where the County plows are unable to remove it completely. In this situation, salt is applied to promote melting.

After the snow stops falling, and after the major County roads and primary neighborhood roads are cleared, crews concentrate on clearing snow from all neighborhood streets and salt is applied **AS REQUIRED.**

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT WHEN IT SNOWS:

0—6 INCHES

It takes about 8 hours following the end of a 0-6 inch snowfall to plow and/or treat every County road once.

6—12 INCHES

After a 6—12 inch snowfall, you can expect County roads to be cleared within 8 to 12 hours. At that time, one pass should have been made through all County roads.

12—18 INCHES

After a 12-18 inch snowfall, our crews will complete the work in about 12—30 hours.

18—24 INCHES

After an 18-24 inch snowfall, you can expect one pass to have been made through all County roads in 30 hours.

HOWEVER, the type of snow (wet or powdery), the temperature, and wind conditions following the storm can alter this schedule.

Please be patient! Roads are plowed according to their priority and reviewed at the end of each season. Snow fighters work around the clock until all 1,063 miles of County maintained roads are passable.

We will use a force of approx. 195 employees and 150 pieces of snow removal equipment for routine snow plowing and we have available 20 additional pieces of equipment for use when conditions dictate. We store 20,000 tons of salt to get the job done.

FIRST PRIORITY :	**EMERGENCY ROADS**
SECOND PRIORITY:	**MAIN ROADS**
THIRD PRIORITY:	**SECONDARY ROADS & CUL-DE-SACS**

There is a simple way to shovel snow and not get it plowed back into the entrance of your driveway blocking you in.

When facing the street, you need to to shovel away the snow that is resting along the shoulder to the left of your driveway entrance.

By creating this area you will eliminate the chance of a plow pushing snow back across your entry way.

PLOWING & HOW YOU CAN HELP

PLEASE NOTE

PUSHING PROCEDURE:
Driver's are required to widen or push back curb to curb to open inlets and drainage courses to prevent melting snow from becoming packed ice or causing flooding problems. Also pushing curb to curb allows mail carriers to deliver mail and placement of snow behind curb for future snow events.

Parking your vehicles in the street greatly hinders snow removal operations and risks property damage as large equipment cannot maneuver efficiently.

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

- If you have a driveway, use it. The more cars off the road, the better and faster the operation can proceed, and the less likely it is that a vehicle will be plowed in, splashed by salt spray, or become the victim of a collision.
- We ask that all portable basketball hoops (backstops) are to be removed from the Harford County right-of-way in order to help expedite our snow removal operation.
- To help avoid the frustration that occurs when a snowplow covers your driveway with snow after you have shoveled, stand facing the road and shovel snow to the right into the yard instead of into the road.
- If you do not have a driveway, park on the EVEN NUMBERED side of the road in EVEN years and ODD NUMBERED side of the road in ODD years, as close to the curb as possible. Move to the other side of the road after the plow has cleared it.

EXAMPLE: 2014-2015 SEASON IS AN EVEN YEAR & 2015-2016 WILL BE AN ODD YEAR.

FAQ

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can't the County remove the snow they put in my driveway?

When you consider the large amount of driveways in the County, it would be costly and time consuming to use additional people and equipment to perform this service. Our primary duty is to open and maintain the roadway system.

Why do the plows go so fast and throw snow on my sidewalk?

Plows need to go a minimum speed in order to throw the snow off of the roadway onto storage areas in the public right-of-way. We ask our operators not to throw the snow any further than necessary. In some cases, however, the sidewalks may be too close to the curb to avoid getting snow on them.

The County is not responsible for the following:

- Removing snow from driveways during normal plowing operations.
- Cleaning snow around mailboxes
- Redirecting manpower to open roads for people to go to work, catch a plane, return from work, doctors/medical appointments, etc.