

WHEN IT SNOWS

When it snows, snow fighters 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 becomes 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, a mixture of anti-skid material and salt is applied to provide adequate traction.

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 an anti-skid material and salt is applied as promptly as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT WHEN IT SNOWS



0 - 6 inches

It takes about 8 - 16 hours following the end of a 0" - 6" snowfall to plow and/or treat every County Road once.



6 - 12 inches

After a 6" - 12" snowfall, you can expect County Roads to be cleared within 24 to 36 hours. At that time, one pass should have been made through all County Roads.



12 - 18 inches

After a 12" - 18" snowfall, our crews will complete the work in about 35 to 40 hours.



18 - 24 inches

After a 18" - 24" snowfall, you can expect one pass to have been made through all County Roads in 48 - 72 hours.

However, the type of snow (wet or powdery) and 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 978 miles of County maintained roads are passable. We will use a force of approximately 130 employees, and 70 pieces of snow removal equipment for routine snow plowing and we have available 25 additional pieces of equipment for use when conditions dictate. We store 15,000 tons of salt and sand to get the job done.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS' ACTION PLAN

1. Patrols at the start of the storm.
2. Spot treatment of bridges and elevated roadways.
3. Full scale treatment of all major County roads (arterial roads connecting subdivisions or business districts) and primary neighborhood roads (main collector roads through subdivisions).
4. Plowing of all major County roads.
5. Plowing of all primary neighborhood roads and all other residential roads.
6. Spot treatment of hills and intersections on residential roads.

This plan assures that County residents are within 3 or 4 blocks of a treated roadway during the course of a storm and that complete vehicular access is available as soon as possible when the storm is over.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Comcast Channel 3 and Clearview Channel 7, the County Government channels, continuously update roadway conditions within the County.

For information about our snow removal operations during a snowstorm, call the Bureau of Highways at 410-638-3279 or 410-638-3280.

SNOW EMERGENCY

The State of Maryland has designated certain roads as **SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES**, prominently marked with red and white signs. When the State initiates the snow emergency plan, it is illegal to drive without snow tires, mud/snow radials or chains, or to park on these roads. Vehicles without snow tires or chains found blocking snow routes during an emergency may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. State snow emergency plans may not be put into effect simultaneously; therefore, pay special attention to the news broadcasts when announcements are made. State-maintained highways can be identified because they have posted route numbers. County roads do not.

PLOWING AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

Clearing driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property owner. Commercial and multi-family property owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks at their properties. We appeal to our residents to clear sidewalks in front of their homes, because the County does not provide this service.

WE RECOMMEND

™If you have a driveway, use it. The more cars off the road, the better job we can do and the less likely it is that your car will be plowed in, splashed by salt spray or be the victim of a collision.

™If you do not have a driveway, park as close to the curb as possible on ONE SIDE OF THE ROAD. Park your car on the **EVEN NUMBERED** side of the road if possible. Move to the other side of the road after the plow has cleared it.

™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.

POTHOLES

The Public Works Crews have hundreds of miles of pavement to maintain, so they appreciate helpful calls from the citizens giving the exact location of the pothole, with specific address or intersection. Crews will repair potholes on County-maintained roads promptly. Call the "Pothole Hotline" number at 410-638-3376.

EMERGENCIES

Call the Police and Fire Departments at 911 in life-threatening emergencies and for Fire and Rescue services only. An emergency problem is rarely solved by an out-of-sequence plowing; police and emergency vehicles are equipped to reach an emergency call quicker than a street can be plowed. The Police and Fire Departments will contact the Bureau of Highways if an emergency vehicle needs assistance to maneuver on a snow or ice-covered road.

HELPFUL HINTS

- φ Just relax and leave your car at home! Avoid the stress of driving when snow is falling. Every car left at home reduces the number of stranded vehicles that slow down snow control operations. The roads will be cleared faster.
- φ If you must drive, equip your vehicle with snow tires or chains. Why risk getting stuck, damaging your car, blocking traffic and snow removal equipment or incurring towing and impoundment costs and inconvenience?
- φ A road that has been sanded is safer than one not sanded. Please do not pull out in front of trucks to get up a hill faster. It will be much easier after the truck has finished its sanding.

OTHER HARFORD COUNTY OPERATIONS

Harford County Public Schools

If schools are closed or school schedules are changed because of bad weather, the news is relayed over the local radio station and television stations immediately after the decision is made. You may also call 410-838-7300.

Harford Community College

Weather Cancellation Emergency Number 410-836-4322

Harford County Public Library

Wondering if the Harford County Public Library is open?
Call 410-638-INFO (4636) for weather related announcements.

Harford County Transportation Services

For information concerning the Harford County Transportation Services schedules and routes, and their status during storms, listen to your local radio station (WAMD or WBAL) or call 410-612-1621 or 410-838-2562 on weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS

MAINTENANCE SHOP NUMBERS

1ST District – Abingdon Maintenance Shop

3111 Philadelphia Road
Abingdon, Maryland 21009
410-612-1616

2ND District – Hickory I Maintenance Shop

2220 Ady Road
Forest Hill, Maryland 21050
410-638-3208

3RD District – Whiteford Maintenance Shop

1405 Pylesville Road
Whiteford, Maryland 21160
410-638-3606

4TH District – Jarrettsville Maintenance Shop

1348 Cooptown Road
Forest Hill, Maryland 21050
410-692-7878

Hickory II Main Highway Facility

1807 North Fountain Green Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21015
410-638-3279 or 410-638-3280
Pothole Hotline: 410-638-3376
Fax Number: 410-879-8263
Web Site: HWYS@CO.MD.US



Harford County, Maryland
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Highways

When It Snows

Tune to Comcast channel 3
or clearview channel 7



James M. Harkins
Harford County Executive

~ Preserving our Values, Protecting our Future ~