

Public Works - Snow Removal



6-406: Deposit of Harmful Substances on Streets, Alleys, Sidewalks or Public Grounds Prohibited.

[Ord. No. 357, 10/16/1991, § 6-406; as amended by Ord. No. 501, 8/15/2012]

No person shall pour, throw or deposit any harmful or destructive substance or matter, including, but not limited to, snow, trash, leaves, grass clippings or branches, except when specifically permitted for pickup by the Borough, on any street, alley, sidewalk or public grounds in the Borough.

Snow & Ice Removal Ordinance Summary

21-221: Responsibility for Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalk; Time Limit.

[Ord. No. 163, 2/1/1965, § 1]

The owner, occupant or tenant of every property fronting upon or alongside of any of the streets in the Borough is hereby required to remove or cause to be removed from all of the sidewalks in front of or alongside of such property all snow or ice thereon fallen or formed within 24 hours after the same shall have ceased to fall or to form, so that a minimum width of 30 inches is available for passage; provided, the owner of a property shall be responsible for conforming to the requirements of this section where such property is occupied by such owner or is unoccupied; the tenant or occupier thereof, where such property is occupied by such tenant or occupier only; and the owner thereof where the property is a multiple-business or multiple-dwelling property, occupied by more than one tenant or occupier.

21-222: Authority for Borough to Remove Snow and Ice and Collect Costs, Plus 10%, From Defaulting Owner, Occupier or Tenant.

[Ord. No. 163, 2/1/1965, § 2; as amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. AO)]

In any case where the owner, occupant or tenant, as aforesaid in § 21-401 of this Part shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with any of the provisions of § 21-221 of this Part within the time limit prescribed therein, the Borough authorities may proceed immediately to clear all snow and/or ice from the sidewalk of such delinquents, and to collect the expenses thereof, with any additional amount allowed by law, from such owner, occupant or tenant, as the case may be, which may be in addition to any fine or penalty imposed under § 21-223 of this Part.

21-223: Violations and Penalties.

[Ord. No. 163, 2/1/1965, § 3; as amended by Ord. No. 357, 10/16/1991, § 21-403; by Ord. No. 422, 3/21/2001, § 1; and by Ord. No. 501, 8/15/2012]

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a Magisterial District Judge in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each section of this Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense; provided, however, that in lieu of prosecution, a penalty of \$15 for each violation may be paid provided the violator appears within 72 hours at the Hatfield Police offices and pays the reduced penalty of \$15 at that time.

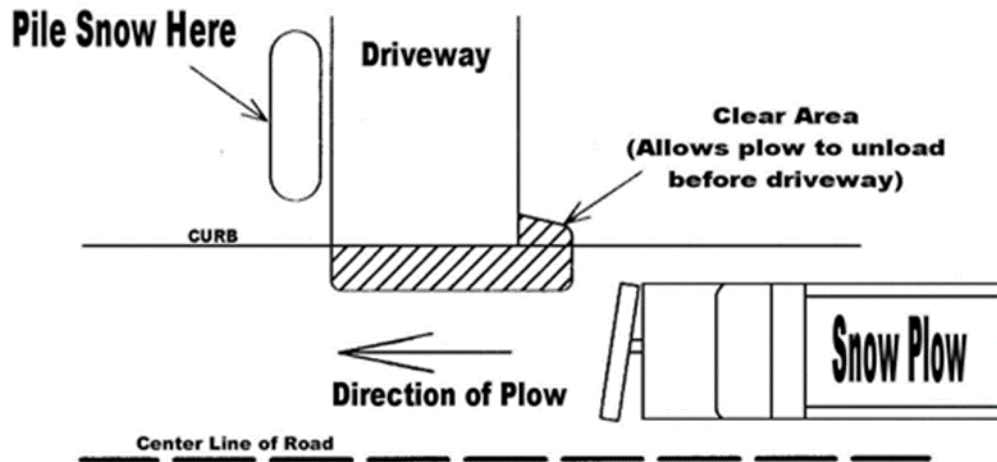
Driveway Plowing Policies

The snow which is in front of a plow will unload whenever it passes a cleared area.

This is why snow is left in a clean driveway as the street is plowed. If you must clean your driveway prior to the completion of our plowing, there are two strategies you can try to alleviate double shoveling. If you leave the first five (5) feet of your driveway (closest to the street) un-shoveled until we are finished, you will only have to shovel this section once. Also, a cleared area on the side of the driveway from which the truck will approach, provides an area for the snow to unload from the plow before it reaches your driveway. However, this area must be AT LEAST 10 feet long and 4 to 5 feet wide, depending on the amount of snow that has fallen. This area must also be off the side of the street in order to be effective.

The following sketch shows you how:

Driveway Plowing Policies



Snow Emergency - SAFETY FIRST!

Our first responsibility during a snow event is to keep designated Snow Emergency Routes and streets outside of developments open to allow for the safe passage of emergency vehicles and school buses.

Snow Emergency Procedures Summary

15-901: Declaration of Snow and/or Ice Emergency.

[Ord. No. 501, 8/15/2012]

In order to facilitate the movement of traffic and to combat the hazards of snow and ice on the streets of Hatfield Borough, the Hatfield Township Police Department, at the discretion of the Mayor or the Borough Manager or the Chief of Police or his/her designee, may declare a snow and/or ice emergency. Information on the existence of a snow and/or ice emergency shall be given by the Mayor or the Borough Manager or the Chief of Police or his/her designee through the radio, newspaper or other available media and information on the termination of the emergency may be given by use of the same media.

If a snow emergency is declared it is mandatory that all vehicles be moved from ALL STREETS designated as Snow Emergency Routes. Anyone found in violation of the aforementioned Ordinance is subject up to \$150 in fines per incident. Vehicles in violation will also be towed, and all applicable towing charges will be the responsibility of the vehicle owner. These fees are payable directly to the towing service. The below roads are designated as Snow Emergency Routes

15-903: Snow Emergency Routes Designated.

[Ord. No. 501, 8/15/2012]

The following are designated as snow emergency routes:

Street	Between
Bentwood Drive [Added by Ord. No. 535, 6/12/2019]	Entire length
Broad Street, east and west	Market Street and Towamencin Avenue
East Lincoln Avenue	Market Street and South Main Street
Forty Foot Road	Broad Street and Borough line
June Drive	Entire length
Main Street, north and south	Borough line and Borough line
Market Street	East Lincoln and Union Street
North Girard Avenue	Entire length
Orchard Lane	Entire length
South Girard Avenue	Entire length
Stephanie Court	Both sides for entire length
Towamencin Avenue	Forty foot Road/Broad Street and South Main Street
Union Street	Borough line and Market Street
Vine Street, east and west	Borough line and Borough line

15-904: Violations and Penalties.

[Ord. No. 501, 8/15/2012]

1. If, at any time during a period of snow emergency declared under § 15-901 of this Part, a person shall park a motor vehicle or allow a motor vehicle to remain parked anywhere upon a snow emergency route, that person shall be guilty of a violation of this Part and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$50 and costs.
2. If, at any time during a period of snow emergency declared under § 15-901 of this Part, a person shall drive a motor vehicle upon a snow emergency route, without having that vehicle equipped with snow tires or chains, that person shall be guilty of a violation of this Part, and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 and costs.

Plowing Policy and Practice

Public Works routinely begins plowing when approximately 3" of snow has accumulated. As long as snow is still falling, the snow emergency routes remain our first priority. We endeavor to always maintain two (2) lanes of travel. After these streets are cleared, crews will begin clearing secondary residential access

streets and minor back roads. These roads are still considered by the Federal Highway Administration as "mobility" and provide local traffic movement. However, Cul-de-sacs and dead end streets are classified as "assessable", although important to us for your safety, they are not local or secondary streets, they provide passage to only those living at that specific location. These areas will be plowed once the "mobility" streets have been fully opened.

Our policy is to plow curb to curb using steel blades for maximum clearing. The clearing process may take several return trips to your neighborhood depending upon the severity of the snow and obstructions located on your street, such as parked cars. Please keep in mind that it is almost impossible to keep snow from being deposited into your driveway and sidewalks during plowing. Plows cannot be elevated or stopped at each driveway encountered.

We will do our best to keep school bus stops as clear as possible. During heavy snow events, it may be difficult to remove all the snow from these areas. We work closely with the North Penn School District Bus Garage regarding bus stop safety.

Note:

Trucks while plowing attempt to maintain speeds of no more than 15 MPH. The force of snow being thrown from a plow at this speed creates the illusion that the vehicle is moving at a much faster rate of speed.

Salting begins immediately and continues until all streets are completed or until the use of salt is no longer effective. The more traffic there is on a road, the more effective the salt will be. Salt is typically less effective when temperatures fall below 26 degrees. After all clearing is completed the use of salt is deployed on an as-needed basis.

The Borough of Hatfield does not plow private roads, driveways, apartment complexes, private condominiums, or manufactured home communities. The Borough of Hatfield only plows pass-through Alleys when an accumulation of snow is 6" or greater.

Exercise Patience:

Snow removal is a tedious and time-consuming process. The Borough of Hatfield consists of over 8 miles of roadways and our crews work many hours under very adverse conditions to keep you safe. Travel should be limited during a snowfall and immediately after, unless absolutely necessary.

With less traffic on streets, the snow removal process can be accomplished in a timely and efficient manner. Please refrain from calling to ask about your street, we will get to every location as quickly as possible. If there is a serious hazard present or someone is at risk that needs medical, fire, or police assistance, immediately call 911. Remember when crews are diverted from their normal routes it can slow the overall effort. If a call does warrant immediate attention the necessary equipment will be dispatched.

Wait to shovel!

As we clean your street, we have no place to push snow except to the curb line. Be advised that if you clean your driveway, sidewalk, fire hydrant, or mailbox area before we have completed there is a high

probability you will need to clear those areas again. Unfortunately, this is an unavoidable result in the process, so please save yourself the aggravation and wait until we have made our final pass.

Remember, a friendly smile or wave means a lot to our crews who work tirelessly to ensure your safety.