

Snow and Ice Policy

Storage of salt and stock levels

- The UK Roads Liaison Group's "Lessons from the Severe Weather February 2009" report published in July 2009 recommended a service standard of at least six days resilience during the core winter period
- The bad weather review group discussed a minimum resilience of at least seven days
- The City Council working in partnership with the County Council under the new Area Stewardship arrangement continue to grit the principal roads in the city, therefore in severe conditions there would be a daily requirement of 25 tonnes to grit the two main gritting routes twice a day during extreme conditions. In addition to the main routes there is a requirement to manually spread grit to high footfall pedestrian and shopping areas which on this years experience would necessitate approximately an additional 10 tonne per day
- Therefore the minimum stock level required for seven days resilience is:- 7 days x 35 tonne = 245 tonne plus a 10% contingency = 269.50 tonne (Say 270 t)
- Direct Services have recently invested in new retaining wall units at the Cowley Marsh depot, which in addition to increasing the salt stock levels also contain the salt in a smaller footprint. We now have the capacity to store at least 400 tonne at the Cowley Marsh depot
- We intend to commence this winter gritting season with a stock level of 400 tonne and place advanced orders with salt suppliers for December, January and February to ensure we maintain a minimum stock level of 300 tonne

Winter Period and Resources

- The winter maintenance season generally operates from early November to the end of March. During this period we have specific staff available on stand-by, managed by the Duty Officer to undertake the routine gritting operations as instructed by County
- The out of hours resource is supplemented during extreme weather conditions from other operational teams
- We currently operate two bulk gritters complete with snow ploughs, two four-wheel vehicles with ploughs and one tractor with a plough

- Manual 'walk behind' gritting equipment is stored at the Cowley Marsh Depot for deployment to high footfall areas across the city as circumstances dictate

Snow Clearance/Bad Weather Policy

- The City Council has a duty under Section 42 of the Highways Act to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along the side roads of Oxford is not endangered by snow or ice, to comply with this duty we spread salt and clear snow. There are practical limitations to what can be achieved, and priority is given to areas of highest potential risk. The first priority are the busiest bus routes, after that we treat roads and pavements according to a system of priorities based on usage.

Where we salt:

It is unrealistic and uneconomic to salt all roads in the city, therefore the roads that are treated are prioritised as follows:-

- Carry large volumes of traffic
- Are main bus routes
- Are known problem sites
- Provide access to hospitals and fire stations

The attached map shows all the roads in the city that will receive attention and are divided into:

- **Priority 1** – Primary, priority bus routes as detailed on the attached plans and lists... (***Details pending outcome of Section 42 and possible future arrangements for city to grit principle roads***)
- **Priority 2** - Other significant bus routes and other commuter routes.

If circumstances dictate other resources from within the Council will be redeployed to clear snow and apply grit to the high footfall areas in the city centre and other busy pedestrian/shopping areas, transport hubs and medical practices throughout the city.

We do not presalt or clear snow from cycle tracks.

Other links:-

- Driving in bad weather

Recycling and Refuse Operations

Frequent weather reports are received from the Emergency Planning Officer and these are reviewed at regular intervals. The reports are discussed at an operations planning meeting the evening before and again prior to the commencement of the collection service the following day when a decision is made on whether it is safe and practicable to run the service.

If the normal refuse and recycling collections are hindered due to adverse weather the collection services will be prioritised following a daily risk assessment of conditions and inspection of locations: -

Priority 1 – Food waste, city centre trade waste, clinical waste and collections from high rise flats

Priority 2 – Residual household waste collection on our gritting routes, including major arterial roads and main bus routes

Priority 3 – Residual household waste collections city wide if conditions are suitable

Priority 4 – Co-mingled recycling collections city wide if conditions are suitable

Residents can help during periods of adverse weather by placing their bin or lilac sack in locations that are easily accessible to the waste and recycling collection teams.

Depending on the duration of the disruption and the prevailing conditions the collections would be caught up as follows: -

1 - Day disruption – Move normal collection by one day and complete the 'catch up' by undertaking collection services on the following Saturday

2 - Day disruption – Undertake a double collection of residual waste on the following Saturday and a double collection of commingled recycle on Sunday

5 - Day disruption – Attempt to undertake a double food waste and residual waste collection the following week and postpone the commingled recycling service during the catch up period

In order to resource the catch up arrangements the bulky waste and garden waste collection services will be suspended.

When the normal collection services are disrupted due to weather conditions there will be a relaxation of side waste enforcement.

Our duty as Landlords

The Horspath Road depot is the hub for the provision of emergency responses to electrical, gas and plumbing problems within our housing stock

- Direct Services will primarily carry out emergency repairs during severe weather periods (such as heavy snow fall) where the service operational effectiveness is severely affected
- The emergency repairs service will be delivered via three 4x4 vehicles

The tower blocks and sheltered accommodation blocks across the city have been assessed, due to the high footfall in the tower blocks and the need to maintain access to potentially venerable residents in the sheltered blocks the following actions have been implemented:-

- Grit bins have been installed and filled at five tower blocks, twelve sheltered blocks and Riverside Court
- A small stock of snow shovels will be held at each location

Other resources within Direct Services will be re-deployed to assist with snow clearing and grit spreading as required.

Advice to Householders

Private Property snow and ice clearance:

Oxford City Council encourages its residents and businesses to clear snow and ice from the footway outside their homes and premises providing that in doing so they take reasonable precautions and do not leave the footway less safe than it was with the snow and ice undisturbed.

Tips for Removing Snow & Ice:

- Do not use hot water
- Use a shovel with a wide blade
- Spread table salt on the area cleared to prevent ice from re-forming

Salt Bins

- Funding of salt bins by Area Committee
- The Cowley Area Committee have funded the installation of a bin in Oliver Road and North East Area Committee has funded one in Sandfield Road. The bins will be added to the city wide list and subsequently inspected, maintained and re-filled as part of the normal winter operations undertaken by Direct Services

Cemeteries service

During periods of bad snow and ice, we will ensure we have resources available to keep cemeteries open for burials during the bad weather.

If Parks staff are deployed to other areas across the city to help deal with snow and ice clearance, we will ensure that an appropriate number of cemeteries staff are retained to ensure the service remains open. Existing bookings will take first priority.

Media and Communications Protocol for Emergencies

Media Inquiries

The Press Office will inform the local media of the situation.

Website

If snow and ice affects services, the Oxford City Council website will have a message on the homepage to alert people to the issues.

The website will be updated regularly with any new information regarding the situation.

In all cases, the website is linked to partner sites, including Oxfordshire County Council, Highways Agency and Directgov.