

**Snohomish County  
Road Maintenance Division**

December 12, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The snow season in Snohomish County is upon us. The Snohomish County Public Works Road Maintenance Division is committed to utilizing all available resources to provide the best possible level of service for unincorporated Snohomish County. The division is prepared for the winter weather travel with snow and ice equipment ready, stockpiled supplies, trained staff and updated snow route maps. A few things to be mindful of going into the winter driving season:

First, Snohomish County Road Maintenance Division is responsible for approximately 3,100 total lane miles of county maintained streets and roads across the county. In order to provide an optimum level of service over such a large area during snow and ice events, routes have been designated by priority. Specific plowing routes are prioritized based on traffic volume, transit and school bus routes, terrain, and institutional knowledge of historical problem areas. Priority snow and ice routes have been established by the following designations:

*From highest to lowest priority:*

- 1. Principal Arterials/ Major Collectors**
- 2. Emergency routes leading to/from emergency service facilities**
- 3. Access roads to state routes**
- 4. Mass transit and school bus snow routes**
- 5. Residential streets**

Second, higher priority routes may require plowing several times depending on the conditions and severity of the event. It is important to understand that the severity of snow and ice may vary greatly across the county and resources will be dispatched to areas they are most needed. Road Maintenance crews will make every effort to clear steep access roads and lower priority residential roadways in heavily populated areas, but only as resources allow. Crews also strive to clear known problem areas such as intersections, curves, and steep hills. Please be advised that road priority does not change based on service requests and that multiple requests for service will not increase the priority of our response.

Finally, it is recommended during the winter driving season that the public be prepared for inclement weather conditions that could have an impact on their commute.

- If you have an emergency or are in eminent danger, please call 911 immediately.
- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. Do not tailgate and if you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the displaced snow and ice and the sand when the sander is on.
- Vehicles parked along all major arterials and emergency routes must be removed off the street.
- Keep drainage inlets near your home clear of leaves and debris during the winter months.
- It is important to note that all state routes and highways are maintained by the Washington State Department of Transportation. ([www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov))

For up-to-date road conditions, road closures and other important road information visit us online at [www1.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us).

Sincerely,

Snohomish County Public Works  
Road Maintenance Division