

SNOW EMERGENCIES

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) to enforce all violations of City Ordinances related to snow emergencies.

PROCEDURES:

I. Snow Removal

- A. Property owners must remove snow in accordance with City Ordinance [34-332](#).
 - 1. Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of the Public Works Department's declaration of the completion of snow removal operations.
 - 2. Snow must be placed between the back of the curb and the sidewalk, on private property, or on a portion of the sidewalk, as long as a clear area at least four (4) feet in width on the sidewalk is maintained.
 - 3. Snow and ice cannot be placed in the right of way, in an alley, or onto a sidewalk.

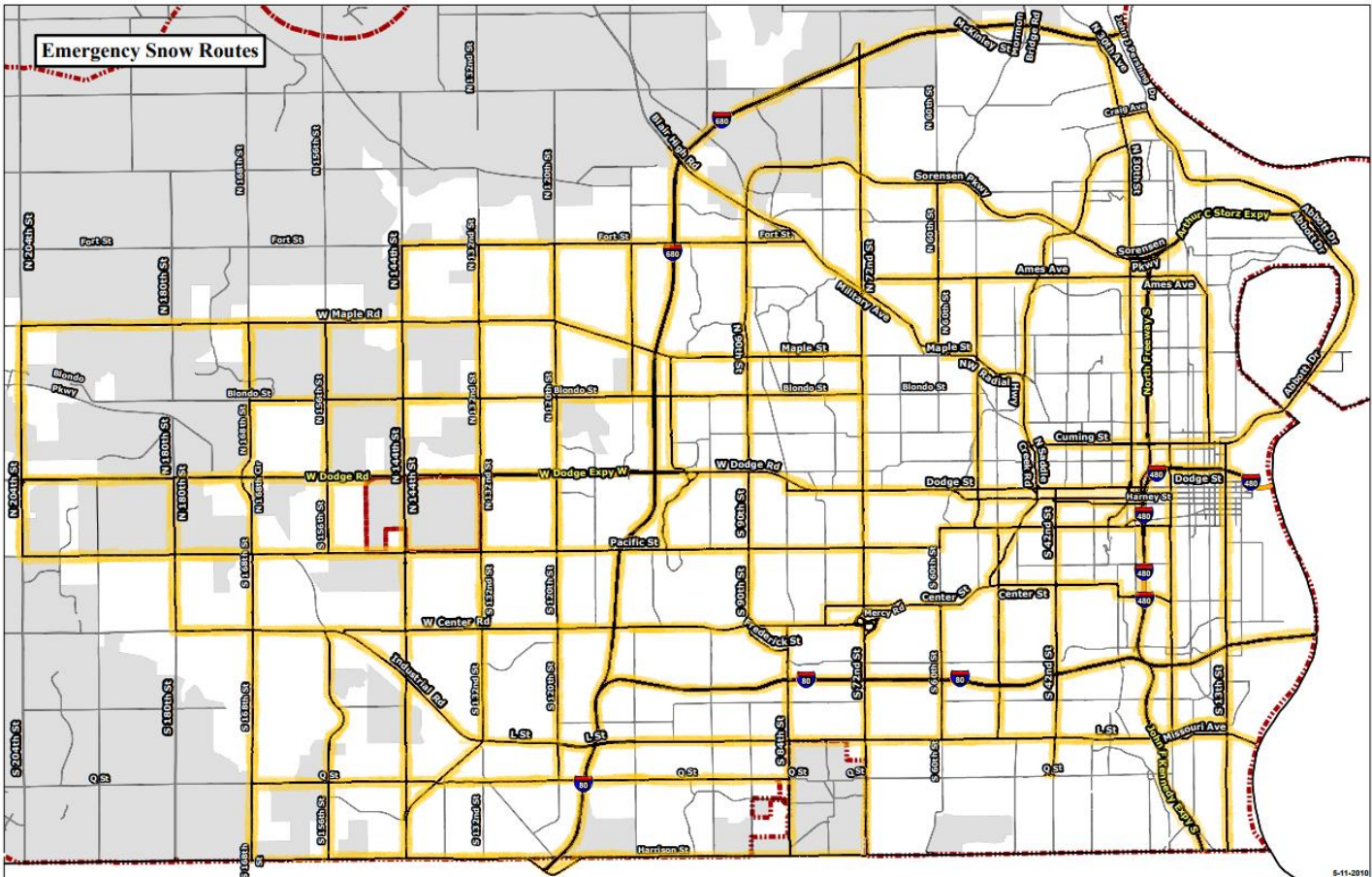
NOTE: Some improvement districts (downtown and/or business) have written agreements with Public Works which allow them to place their snow onto approved collection areas within the right of way.

II. Emergency Snow Routes

- A. Signs are posted on designated roadways to notify the public of emergency snow routes.
- B. The City of Omaha Public Works Department posts a map of current snow routes on their [website](#).

NOTE: The Public Works site can be accessed from the City of Omaha website (www.cityofomaha.org).

- C. The following map from the Public Works Department has been edited to show the Omaha Snow Emergency Routes **in bold**:



III. Parking Citations

- A. According to City Ordinance [36-177](#), ONE HOUR after the Mayor has declared a snow emergency it will be unlawful for anyone to park a vehicle on a designated "Emergency Snow Route."

EXCEPTION: Persons can park a vehicle for no longer than three (3) minutes to allow passengers to load or unload and for no longer than thirty (30) minutes to allow loading or unloading of property, provided a driver remains in the vehicle and so long as no other traffic laws are being violated. Vehicles in violation of this ordinance may be ticketed.

1. Parking citations will include the words "Snow Emergency" at the bottom in the space indicated for "Other Parking Violation" and the code "[36-177](#)."
 2. Officers do not need to call for a tow. Once a vehicle is ticketed, street crews will tow the vehicle from the Emergency Snow Route.
- B. According to City Ordinance [36-179](#), during a Snow Emergency, vehicles must park on the odd-addressed sides of streets (south and east) on odd calendar dates, and on the even-addressed sides of streets (north and west) on even calendar dates.
1. If parking is normally prohibited on one side of an entire length of a block, during a Snow Emergency parking will be allowed pursuant to the Odd/Even Day parking rule.
 2. The Odd/Even Day parking rule does not apply to streets with metered parking, parking lots and parking structures, or streets west of and including 72nd Street.

3. If a vehicle is in violation of City Ordinance [36-179](#) the vehicle may be ticketed, relocated, or towed to allow snow removal to be completed.
 - a. If the vehicle parked in violation impedes the city's removal of snow or ice from a right of way, that vehicle may be relocated or towed.
 - b. If the vehicle parked in violation is ticketed, the citation will include the words "Snow Emergency" at the bottom of the citation in the space indicated for "Other Parking Violation" and the code "[36-179](#)."
- C. Parking meters are hooded to indicate no parking while street crews remove snow.
 1. Vehicles parked at hooded meters may be ticketed pursuant to City Ordinance [36-178](#).
 2. The citation will include the words "Snow Removal Zone" at the bottom in the space indicated for "Other Parking Violation" and the code "[36-178](#)."

IV. Hazardous Conditions Due to Ice and Snow

- A. Officers will advise the OPD Information Channel 6 of particularly hazardous conditions due to ice and/or snow. Depending on the location, the OPD Information Channel Operators will notify Public Works or the State Department of Roads to dispatch equipment to remove the snow or ice.

REFERENCES

I. Laws

- A. City Ordinances [34-332](#), [36-177](#), [36-178](#), and [36-179](#)

II. Previous OPD Orders

- A. Previous General Orders: #37-10

III. Other

- A. PPM Monthly Updates: #01-2018, 05-2022.