



This Week from the Mayor



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City prepared as snow storm approaches



They're stationary now, but the city's fleet of eight dump trucks with snow plows and sanders, a flat bed plow and sander, and three de-icer applicator trucks will soon be on the move as snow is expected to hit Renton today.

SNOW STORMS CAN PARALYZE A CITY. Our daily routine, which we undertake without a second thought, is turned upside down and even simple tasks require major planning and effort.

The snowstorm we're preparing to face brings with it that potential. But based on our response to the storm earlier this week, I know we're ready.

Public Works and Police Response

Our response to snow starts with our Public Works Street Maintenance crews. You might remember I talked about their preparations as far back as last October when they outfitted their trucks with snow plows, sand, salt and de-icer containers, and drilled on procedures.

They did a tremendous job earlier this week keeping major arterials open, allowing public safety agencies (police and fire), public transportation, schools, the business community and those residents who have no options other than to drive their cars to go about their work. About the time the Patriots were finishing off the Rams, they took to the roads applying de-icer in preparation for snow. These crews, capably aided by crews from both the Surfacewater and Wastewater divisions, have worked 12-hour shifts 24 hours a day this entire week.

Over the first three days they plowed, sanded and treated over 3,700 miles of road using 150 tons of sand, 200 tons of road salt and 3,000 gallons of de-icer. On Wednesday they had time to rest and restock supplies, but went back out that evening and all day Thursday to prepare for the next storm.

Renton police also play a vital role, despite the fact they see their normal service call volume decrease during a storm. However, calls regarding collisions and traffic complaints increase. The women and men of the department performed yeomen work, helping stranded motorists and keeping our streets clear.



You can help both groups by only going out when absolutely necessary. Abandoned cars can block emergency vehicles and snow plows, making a difficult job even more challenging. Abandoned cars are subject to tow by Renton Police.

CARING FOR THE HOMELESS

Our homeless are especially vulnerable during a snowstorm. Community Services staff has coordinated with Catholic Community Services to open the city's severe weather shelter (300 Rainier Ave N) all this week and through next Tuesday morning. The shelter opens nightly at 8, closes the following morning at 7 and provides a warm place to sleep. It has been at capacity all week.

OPEN OR CLOSED?

The operating hours of city facilities like the Renton Community Center, Renton Senior Activity Center and our neighborhood centers rests with Community Services. They follow Renton School District's winter weather protocols when determining whether to close or delay their opening. Community Services staff have decided to close those facilities today at 3 p.m. and keep them closed all weekend.

THE NEED TO KNOW

Providing accurate information is vital. When our residents wake and see snow, they immediately want to know street conditions, the status of city facilities and services and, if it's their trash day, if Republic Services trucks would be rolling. Our departments gather pertinent information and send it to the communications division, which posts on our social media channels and city website. At the same time, our emergency management staff keep on eye on the weather and other trends and work with King County to keep city staff informed. If you are not already following us on social media, I urge you to do so, because we have been posting information throughout the day to inform and help reduce the number of calls to departments and agencies.

The response on social media showed our residents' appreciation:

City of Renton has always done an excellent job keeping our roads in good shape during snow.

Yesterday (Monday) was able to drive to work in Seattle from the Cascade area at 6am with no issues. Thank you!

Thank you guys especially the crews. Hoping they are able to get some rest.

Great job on the roads. I live near Cascade elementary. Avoided normal route of Puget and went Talbot instead. Easy ride down hill, although still in 4WD going less than 30MPH. Thank you Renton staff!!

Thank you for all the hard work you all are doing. It's greatly appreciated!

In my book, they're (public works crews) are heroes! I was able to go to work yesterday because of them :)

So as we wait for the latest storm to blanket our area, I hope you have seen that we're ready for whatever Mother Nature sends our way because of the pride, professionalism and dedication to customer service by our city staff. We are "Ready in Renton."

Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)