



Binghamton University

Physical Facilities

Snow Removal Procedures



Snow Removal Procedures

Snow removal responsibilities

- 6.3 miles of roads
- 3.5 miles of service drives
- 23 miles of walks
- 35 acres of parking lots with 6,700 parking spaces
- Four satellite sites: University Downtown Center, Innovative Technologies Complex, Commerce Road and Endicott Storage Facility
- 4 acres of synthetic athletic fields



Snow Removal Procedures

Staffing & Equipment

- 12 Grounds workers
- Snow removal volunteer program
- Redeployment of Custodial staff
- Vehicles
 - Age ranges from 1986-2013
 - 40% of vehicles more than ten years old

Staffing & Equipment

- Depending on the storm, up to 230 people may be involved in snow removal efforts
- It is not unusual for Grounds crews to work 80+ hours a week during periods of inclement weather
- During severe storms, an outside contractor is used to supplement snow removal efforts

Snow Removal Procedures

Facts

- The Grounds crew begins plowing when there is $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch of snow accumulation
 - Under ideal conditions*, it takes approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for one pass on sidewalks and 2-4 hours for one pass on parking lots

*Ideal conditions are times with little vehicular or pedestrian traffic (usually when a storm occurs overnight)

Comparison

- The Town of Vestal begins plowing after 3 inches of snow accumulation



Snow Removal Procedures

Priorities

- Main roads (for fire and emergency access)
- Access to electrical switchgear, gashouse and coal silo
- Snow lots/Parking Structure (must be cleared and sanded by 8 a.m.)
- Priority pedestrian walks
- Parking areas for students/staff with disabilities
- Drop off points for Campus Pre School and Institute for Child Development

Priorities

- University Police lot
- Health Services/Harpur's Ferry
- Commuter lots (closed until they can be cleared)
- Remaining pedestrian walks and service drives
- Resident parking lots
- Access to water tanks

Snow Removal Procedures

- **Challenges**

- **Timing of the storm- the worst time for a storm is between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.**
 - **Parking lots are full and cannot be totally cleared until 1 a.m. when vehicles are towed from lots after University Police have made efforts to contact owners**
 - **Pedestrians must use walks making snow removal difficult/slow in some areas**



Snow Removal Procedures

- **Challenges**

- **Balancing safety and environmental impact**

- Sand and salt are used to treat roads, parking lots and walkways. Crews strive to minimize use of salt wherever possible. Salt is used in these designated areas:

- Main entrances/exits (100 yards from entrance/exit)
 - Traffic circle
 - Drive between Paid Parking levels
 - Certain intersections
 - Lot M/Clearview

NOTE: If there is significant ice, more salt is used since sand does not melt ice.

Snow Removal Procedures

- **Challenges**
 - **Physical Facilities** regularly reviews snow removal practices and explores other methods to improve procedures
 - We will be experimenting this winter with a brine(water/salt) solution to pre-treat steps and some other small areas

Snow Removal Procedures



Safety

- Be aware that different surfaces on campus react differently in snowy/icy conditions
 - Snow/ice on black top areas tends to melt faster than on areas with granite, concrete or pavers.
 - Use care when walking from one surface type to another

Safety

- Wear proper footwear
 - Boots and shoes with tread will allow for more traction than smooth soled footwear

Snow Removal Procedures

Contact Information

- During regular business hours, contact the Customer Service Center at 777-2226 to report slippery conditions
- During other times, 3:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. contact the Emergency Customer Service Center at 777-2341 or University Police at 777-2393

