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

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 ½ an inch of snow accumulation
  - Under ideal conditions*, it takes approximately 2½ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Main roads (for fire and emergency access)</td>
<td>• University Police lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Access to electrical switchgear, gashouse and coal silo</td>
<td>• Health Services/Harpur’s Ferry</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Snow lots/Parking Structure (must be cleared and sanded by 8 a.m.)</td>
<td>• Commuter lots (closed until they can be cleared)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Priority pedestrian walks</td>
<td>• Remaining pedestrian walks and service drives</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Parking areas for students/staff with disabilities</td>
<td>• Resident parking lots</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Drop off points for Campus Pre School and Institute for Child Development</td>
<td>• Access to water tanks</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>• Be aware that different surfaces on campus react differently in snowy/icy conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>▫ Snow/ice on black top areas tends to melt faster than on areas with granite, concrete or pavers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use care when walking from one surface type to another</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wear proper footwear</td>
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<tr>
<td>▫ Boots and shoes with tread will allow for more traction than smooth soled footwear</td>
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</table>
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