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
- Five satellite sites: University Downtown Center, Innovative Technologies Complex, School of Pharmacy, Commerce Road and Endicott Storage Facility
- 4 acres of synthetic athletic fields
## Snow Removal Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing &amp; Equipment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 16 Grounds workers</td>
<td>• Depending on the storm, up to 230 people may be involved in snow removal efforts</td>
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<td>• Snow removal volunteer</td>
<td>• It is not unusual for Grounds crews to work 80+ hours a week during periods of inclement weather</td>
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<tr>
<td>program</td>
<td>• During severe storms, an outside contractor is used to supplement snow removal efforts</td>
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<td>• Redeployment of Custodial</td>
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<tr>
<td>staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>▫ Age ranges from 1986-2019</td>
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<td>▫ 40% of vehicles more than ten years old</td>
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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

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
      • The Connector Road through the Nature Preserve is a reduced salt area
    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