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
• Three satellite sites: University Downtown Center, Innovative Technologies Complex and Commerce Road
• 4 acres of synthetic athletic fields
Snow Removal Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staffing &amp; Equipment</th>
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<td>• 12 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 program</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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<td>• Redeployment of Custodial staff</td>
<td>• During severe storms, an outside contractor is used to supplement snow removal efforts</td>
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<td>• Vehicles</td>
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<td>▫ Age ranges from 1986-2012</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
  
  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.