



605 - 50th Street
P.O. Box 6300
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www.edson.ca



For Immediate Release

News Release

Snow Removal

Edson, Alberta, November 6th, 2017 – As the snow falls in Edson, it's a good time for a little snow removal refresher.

The cost of snow removal varies greatly depending on the amount of snow we get in a given year, and how many times snow is physically removed from certain areas. In 2016, approximately \$166,000 was spent on snow removal. So far in 2017 about \$241,000 has been spent. For this season, the Town of Edson has about eight staff members dedicated to snow removal at any given time and eight pieces of equipment. The equipment includes two graders, tandem trucks, blowers and a loader.

Generally, snow removal kicks in when accumulation is greater than five centimeters. The residential streets are cleaned AFTER the high priority areas are completed (priority maps available on www.edson.ca/snow). If there is another snowfall before the residential streets are complete, the snow removal crew will return to the high priority areas before continuing with residential streets.

Edson residents are asked to watch for snow removal signs in their neighbourhood. Once the signs are in place, all vehicles need to be removed from the street or risk getting towed. If your vehicle has been towed please contact Bylaw at 780-723-3178 to find out where your vehicle has been moved to.

Icy streets are another concern in the winter months. During regular business hours the town crews monitor the streets for sanding. After hours we have personnel that take calls and can send crews out if necessary. The main arteries and intersections are sanded first, then into residential areas.

While the town maintains the streets and some sidewalks, it's important for residents and businesses to keep the sidewalks in front of their buildings clear. Bylaw No. 1796 states that all snow and/or ice must be removed from sidewalks within 48 hours of the time it was formed and deposited. It is also unlawful to deposit snow on the road. Please be a good neighbour and keep your sidewalks clear.

Please see the following sheets for our frequently asked questions on snow removal or go to www.edson.ca/snow for more information.

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Snow Removal FAQs

How do you determine the plowing priorities?

The priorities have been set based on emergency vehicle access, bussing routes, downtown parking, and residential access. 49th Street and 6th Avenue are always done first to open up the Town to emergency vehicles. Once priority routes are cleared main residential streets are opened up to allow at least one main plowed road in each area before clearing out the side streets.

The priority list and map can be found at www.edson.ca/snow.

Why do the areas that require snow hauling take longer than other areas of Town?

Certain areas of Town require snow to be hauled off rather than just plowed to the side of the road. Those areas include the hospital, Downtown, Westhaven, Tiffin, Westgrove and some parts of Hillendale. All of these areas need to be prioritised separately and may take a bit longer to get done based on equipment and contractor availability.

What is the process for hauling snow Downtown?

The Downtown core is normally done two days following a snowfall, or on a Tuesday if the snowfall is on a weekend. This is done to allow time for store owners to clear their sidewalks onto the street so it can be picked up at the same time the streets are done. This is the one area where depositing snow on the streets is allowed as there is nowhere else for that snow to go.

Why does the plow leave a large pile of snow across my driveway?

Because snow plows are designed to push snow to the side, snow does get deposited on residential driveways. The Town of Edson does take steps to reduce the amount of snow deposited as much as possible. Our graders have snow gates that should reduce the windrow left behind. Heavier snowfall can cause larger windrows, and while we do our best to reduce this, our main goal is to get streets opened up for safe travel for our residents and emergency vehicles.

Why was my vehicle towed? What do I do now?

Once snow removal signs are up, residents are given time to remove their vehicles. If a vehicle is not removed it must be towed to allow access for our equipment. If your vehicle has been towed you're asked to call the Bylaw Department at 780-723-3178 to find out which towing company was used and where the vehicle is being stored.

Why was my vehicle plowed in?

Residents are asked to park off-street after a snowfall to allow for proper snow removal. If a vehicle is left on the street when it is being plowed the operator has no choice but to plow around it. Operators do slow down when possible to reduce the amount of snow built up around the parked vehicle, but they must continue clearing the streets to get them opened up as quickly as possible.

When do you sand roads?



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During regular business hours Town crews monitor the streets for sanding. After hours we have personnel that take calls and can send out crews if necessary. Main arteries and intersections are done first and then crews move to residential streets. A sand/salt mixture is used to help remove the ice and add traction.

Are people allowed to use personal vehicles/ATV's to remove snow?

The Town of Edson does not allow personal vehicles to be used to remove snow from streets. If property is damaged while a resident is using their own equipment to clear snow they can be held liable for the damage. Residents are allowed to use their own equipment to remove snow from their own driveway and sidewalk but are not allowed to use personal equipment on Town owned property.

I got stuck and a snow plow drove right by me. Why didn't they stop to help?

Unfortunately, operators are not permitted to stop to help tow or push other drivers in most cases. Streets must be opened up for the safety of all drivers and if they make too many stops it would greatly increase the time it takes to get the streets cleared. Our main priority is to get the roads opened up for all drivers.