

CITY OF OWOSSO

SIDEWALK SNOW & ICE REMOVAL POLICY

CITY CODE DIVISION 3. CLEARING

Section 29-226. **REQUIRED**

The Occupant of every lot or premises adjoining any street, or the owner of such lot or premises, if same are not occupied, shall clear and keep cleared all sidewalks adjoining such lot or premises from snow, ice, filth and other obstructions.

(Code 1977, §4.65)

Section 29-227. **FAILURE TO CLEAR**

If any occupant or owner shall neglect or fail to clear ice, snow, filth or other obstructions from the sidewalk adjoining his or her premises, for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive hours or more, he or she shall be guilty of violation of this article, and in addition the city manager may cause such sidewalk to be cleared and the expense of clearing shall become a debt to the city from the occupant or owner of such premises and shall be collected as a single lot assessment in accordance with Section 10.7 of the Charter.

(Code 1977, §4.76)

RULES & REGULATIONS

Section 1.00. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of these rules & regulations is to establish procedures for the enforcement of the provisions of Sections 29-226 and 29-227 requiring the clearing of sidewalk of snow and ice.

Section 2.00. **AUTHORITY**

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in Sections 2-76 of the Owosso Code.

Section 3.00. **INSPECTION**

After twenty-four hours has passed following a snow fall in excess of two inches, the Director of Public Works shall cause all sidewalks along major street and trunklines (as designated on the official Act 51 map of the city) to be inspected and a list of addresses shall be made of all properties abutting sidewalks from which accumulations of snow and ice have not been removed.

Section 3.10 **INSPECTION FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS**

In addition to the inspections required pursuant to Section 3.00, the Director of Public Works shall cause to be inspected sidewalks about which complaints have been received by the Department of Public Works alleging failure to have removed accumulations of snow and ice. The addresses of properties abutting sidewalks from which accumulations of snow and ice

have not been removed shall be appended to the list made pursuant to Section 3.00 of these rules and regulations.

Section 3.20. **NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

Whenever practical, the person performing inspections pursuant to Section 3.00 and 3.10 shall leave at the property a notice of violation informing the occupant of his/her obligation to remove accumulations of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting his/her property. Such notice shall also state that failure to have removed accumulations of snow and ice from said sidewalks by 8:00 a.m. on the day following the day on which notice of violation is given shall result in removal by the City and the cost of such removal shall be assessed to the property.

Section 3.30. **REINSPECTION**

After 8:00 a.m. on the day following the day on which inspections were performed pursuant to Sections 3.00 and 3.10, the Director of Public Works shall cause all sidewalks abutting properties whose addresses were listed indicating violation to be re-inspected. The addresses of properties from which accumulations of snow and ice was removed subsequent to the initial inspection shall be deleted from the list of addresses in violation.

Section 4.00. **REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE**

The Director of Public Works shall cause accumulations of snow and ice to be removed from all sidewalks which, upon re-inspection, were found to be in violation of the provisions of city ordinance and these regulations.

Section 5.00 **ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

The costs incurred by the Department of Public Works for the removal of snow and ice, **plus a minimum \$100.00 administration fee** will be billed to the owners of properties abutting sidewalks from which snow and ice has been removed in accordance with the procedures established in charter and ordinance for the assessment of costs associated with abating nuisances.

Section 6.00. **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Director of Public Works shall cause to be published annually in a newspaper of general circulation in the city a notice describing the requirements of city ordinances and these regulations.

Section 7.00. **LIST OF CONTRACTORS**

The Director of Public Works shall maintain a list of individuals and firms available to perform sidewalk snow and ice removal services, which list shall be provided to residents and businesses requesting it.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

Downtown and Westown Owosso Businesses and Building Owners:

The effective control of snow and ice in these commercial districts has to be a joint venture between business and building owners and the City DPW. Each of you can help out by remembering the following:

1. Snow removal from sidewalks is the responsibility of the landowner and/or tenant having frontage on the sidewalk.
2. The City code requires a twenty-four hour response for clearing snow from a snow storm. This is a seven day per week obligation. Although not specified in many instances, there is a distinct advantage to a more timely removal of snow to avoid tamping by foot traffic. Of course, icing conditions can be a liability irrespective of a twenty-four hour ordinance requirement and immediate response is advisable and urged.
3. Coordinate your efforts with the DPW. Clear snow from your sidewalks BEFORE the DPW hauls the snow from the commercial areas. Snow will generally be hauled the night after a storm. Push the sidewalk snow completely from the walk into the curb gutter. This will allow the DPW to remove all of the snow at one time. If you leave it on the sidewalk, the DPW's equipment will be unable to reach it. Snow shoveled into the curb gutter after the DPW has hauled snow will remain there until the next storm or until it melts.
4. The sidewalks are to be cleared. Do not pile snow onto the tree islands because they have electrical outlets and moisture problems can result from continued contact with snow.
5. Spreading rock salt or other melting compounds for ice conditions is an acceptable practice. Use reasonable amounts to assure pedestrian safety. After a drying period, excess salt should be cleared to protect footwear of your customers, clients, and employees. Avoid salting the tree islands and any planting areas as much as possible.

Avoid a liability exposure for yourself and be responsive to hazardous conditions. One bad section of sidewalk in a block can adversely affect business conditions in the entire neighboring area.

If you should have any questions concerning snow removal procedures or the ordinance, please call 989-725-0550.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MEASURES

City streets are divided into three categories:

- Trunklines - State highways, M-21, M-52 and M-71, providing access to the hospital and police and fire stations.
- Major streets - Streets in residential areas that provide access to schools and bus routes and feed into trunklines.
- Local streets - Remaining residential streets, including alleys and dead end streets.

The City of Owosso's winter snow and ice control procedures are as follows:

1" of snow or less resulting in icy conditions: Deicing of trunklines and major streets, plus hazardous stops and hills on local streets.

2" or more of snow causing slick or slushy conditions: Plowing and deicing of trunklines and major streets and deicing of local street intersections and hazardous hills.

4" or more of snow: Plowing and deicing of trunklines, followed by major streets. Local streets are plowed and deiced when the storm ends, with alleys and dead-end streets to follow.