

Watching Developing Weather Conditions

There are times when winter conditions are so poor, that the Borough needs to declare a snow emergency. The Mayor declares all Snow emergencies through a resolution. The Borough will then communicate via the website, email, and the local news program, WGAL.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the resident to be knowledgeable of such declarations. If you live on or park a car on a designated emergency route, make sure you check to see, if a Snow Emergency has been declared.

During a Snow Emergency, no vehicle may operate or park on a designated Snow Emergency Route. The Borough realizes that this inconveniences many individuals. However, the ability for emergency vehicles to access roads is vital to the safety of every resident.

Parking is available in Borough Parking Lots located at Front and Locust Street, next to Borough Hall on Locust and in the former telephone company lot in Avenue H between 2nd and 3rd Street.

Parking will be permitted after the street has been cleared. Residents are reminded it is illegal to throw snow in the street and to place various items along Borough Streets to reserve parking.

The Borough will impound or order the removal and impounding of any vehicle parked or abandoned on a "Snow Emergency Route" during the Snow Emergency and to remove any items left on the streets.

Safety is our number one priority and we appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Columbia Borough Snow Emergency Routes:

During a Snow Emergency, no vehicle may operate or park on a designated Snow Emergency Route. For your convenience, we have listed the routes here:

Chestnut Street

North Second to North Ninth Street

Lancaster Avenue

Locust to Malleable Road

Locust Street

Front to Ninth Street

Ninth Street

Ironville Pike to Lancaster Avenue

North Fifth Street

Chestnut to Locust Street

North Third Street

Locust to Cedar Street





Clearing the Sidewalks

The Borough is aware of the difficulty snow plowing can create for sidewalk clearance, especially at the corners. Crowded streets and large amounts of snow can contribute to situations where the snow piles up at sidewalk intersections. Columbia's Public Works employees work hard to lessen this burden for residents.

Please remember that the Borough's priority is clearing the roads of snow and ice, as quickly as possible, for safe travel. Sometimes, the plow will go down a street and deposit snow in a freshly cleared driveway or sidewalk corner. Shoveling several times during a significant snow fall can help make the clean up more manageable. Using metal shovels and ice melt materials is necessary when the snow is hard and very packed. Remember, never shovel snow from your sidewalks into the streets after they have been plowed.

Failure to clear your sidewalks sufficiently or within the designated amount of time will result in a Quick Ticket.

Snow and Ice Removal

Columbia Borough Code: Chapter 186. Streets and Sidewalks; Article V. Snow and Ice Removal

§ 186-49. Removal requirements.

Each tenant, owner or person in charge of any property fronting on or adjoining any street in the Borough of Columbia shall clear a pathway of at least three feet in width on the sidewalk in front of or adjoining such property within 24 hours after the snow which is the cause thereof has ceased to fall, or to be formed, or after the same as been deposited thereon in any manner. The snow cleaned from the pathway shall not be deposited in the street after the street has been plowed. As used herein, "snow" shall mean any precipitation depositing any accumulation on the street and sidewalks, such as snow, sleet, hail, ice and freezing rain.

Protecting Your Home

Besides the inconvenience, winter weather can cause significant damage to your home. Frozen pipes can burst and flood homes and basements. Ice in gutters can cause serious damage too. Ice dams are when water from melted snow refreezes in the gutters and seeps in under the roof, soaking interior walls. To prevent this, ventilate your attic and insulate the attic floor so less heat rises through attic from the house. With a few proactive steps, you can prepare your home for winter storms.

Safe Winter Travel

Did you know that 22% of all vehicle crashes in the U.S. and 16% of the fatalities are due to severe weather?

It is important that you prepare your automobile for extreme weather and cold temperatures. If you are stranded, being prepared is crucial. When the temps drop:

- Drive only when necessary
- Don't travel alone or tell someone your schedule
- Avoid back road short cuts
- Keep on top of antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, gas, and oil levels
- Check your tires
- Keep a bag of salt or sand in the trunk
- Clear snow and ice from the entire windshield and all windows, the top of car and lights
- Put the numbers for your auto club, insurance agent and garage in your cell phone
- Make a cold-weather kit in your car to include but not limited to a blanket, gloves, hard candy, shovel, first aid kit and flashlight

Columbia Borough

308 Locust Street
Columbia, PA 17512

(717) 684-2467

info@columbiapa.net