



Washoe County/Incline Winter Ordinance(s)

From November through March, the County begins daily monitoring of the weather forecasts for any approaching winter storms. Based on the forecast and experience requirements for staffing, (crew supervisors and employees) and equipment needed for each individual storm is determined. Each storm is individually evaluated, and a pre-event action planning meeting is held. Depending on the size, duration, and temperature associated with a particular storm, the crews may work alternative shifts to provide safe, efficient and effective support for snow and ice control when and where it is needed. The Community Services Department Operations division director will be kept apprised of the planning on a regular basis, especially when required resources exceed the available county owned resources.

It is difficult to set a standing crew start time for every storm in advance because every storm has different characteristics. Factors considered include:

- projected storm duration
- intensity, which includes wind speeds, and snowfall rates
- day of the week and resulting impact on expected traffic volumes
- temperature (type of precipitation)
- projected start time
- projected snow level
- area of probable impact

Additional factors that hinder snow response during an event and are considered in the planning include:

- garbage pick up day/area
- parked vehicles
- equipment failures
- fallen trees
- downed power lines
- presence of pedestrians and pets.

For each storm, a crew supervisor is on call 24 hours a day to monitor the storm activity. As the storm approaches this supervisor begins to call the crews into action as determined during the pre-event action planning meeting. The Incline Village/Crystal Bay area additionally has an employee living at the maintenance yard who monitors each storm in Incline Village.

In general experience has shown that for overnight snow events, crews need to be on the road plowing by 3:00am in the Truckee Meadows, and at 4:00am for Incline Village to treat priority one roads and school bus routes prior to 7:00 am. Snow operations are most effective when the plows are out prior to commuter traffic packing the snow making it difficult and timely to remove. The goal is to have all priority one routes passable by 7:00 am. In the event of heavy snow priority two and three streets will not be cleared until the snow lets up allowing less attention to priority one routes.



For snow events that begin during the day and last into the night hours safety of the commute is of high importance. In general, staff will be held over from their day shift to work until 7:00 pm to help provide a safe commute, but the majority will be sent home after that time. The reason to send staff home is based on the license requirements of the operators who are limited, by law, to work a 14 hour shift prior to a mandated 10 hour rest period. The rest period needs to be met for a possible 3:00 am or 4:00 am start time as discussed for overnight snow events. Again these decisions are determined for each storm.

Weekend storm events are treated differently than weekday events. Generally weekend storms are treated with less urgency for priority one routes due to not needing to have school and bus routes cleared. This alters the operator's route slightly and may impact the time they treat an area. Weekend storms also involve additional hazards that need to be planned for including children sledding; people clearing their driveways onto streets; ATVs operating on streets; and additional vehicles parked on the streets. All of these items increase the time it takes to plow a route.

In case of heavy snow accumulation or a prolonged storm, crew supervisors and their crews will work alternating twelve-hour shifts or longer if needed. Each crew will consist of 1 Supervisor and the required number of employees for that shift as determined by the snow response plan for that specific snow event. This rotation will continue until the required snow and ice control is completed. In the event the snow accumulation exceeds our ability to clear and maintain our road systems, the director of Operations will have the option to call on contractors to help in the clearing of roads. Priorities will be given to the routes hit with the most snow accumulations first. These areas will be cleared to one lane in and one lane out only.

To inquire about daily enforcement activities (red/green) day, please call (775) 833-5555.

70.415 Snow removal: Purpose of ordinance. The purpose of sections 70.415 to 70.450, inclusive, is to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare by prohibiting parking, leaving standing vehicles, or relocating snow from private property on public highways, roads, streets, pedestrian paths, bike paths and their right-of-ways in the unincorporated area of the county in order to permit effective and speedy removal of snow by the road division of the department of public works and the department of transportation of the State of Nevada or other persons engaged, hired, contracted or otherwise authorized to remove snow from public highways, roads, streets, pedestrian paths, bike paths or county right-of-ways and to prevent hazardous traffic conditions thereon. The provisions of section 70.420 apply to all of the unincorporated areas of Washoe County, including designated snow areas and snow storage areas, and limit county liability in snow removal operations. Section 70.425 contains additional provisions which apply only within designated snow areas or snow storage areas.
[1, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. No. 998]

70.420 Snow removal: Interference or impeding.

1. It is unlawful for any person operating or in charge of a



vehicle to stop, park or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, such vehicle upon any public highway, road, street, pedestrian path, or bike path, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, in the unincorporated area of the county, where such highway, road, street, pedestrian path, or bike path is being cleared of snow by snow-removal equipment, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a traffic or peace officer.

2. Neither the State of Nevada, Washoe County nor such other persons as may be engaged in snow removal as described in section 70.415 are liable for damage caused by their agents in the course of snow removal where the property damaged was, at the time of the damage, so situated as to be in violation of sections 70.415 to 70.450, inclusive, or otherwise unlawfully situated, or where the property damaged is a structure of any kind illegally placed within the required set back from the right-of-way without first obtaining a Washoe County building permit. [3, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. No. 998]

70.425 Snow removal: Parking in snow areas.

1. It is unlawful during a red designated winter enforcement period, for any person operating or in charge of a vehicle to stop, park or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, such vehicle upon any public highway, road, street, pedestrian path, or bike path, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, within any designated snow area as provided in this chapter, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer.

2. It is unlawful during a red designated winter enforcement period, for any person operating or in charge of a vehicle to stop, park or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, such vehicle in a designated snow storage area, as provided in this chapter, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer.

3. It is unlawful at any time for any person or snow removal business to remove snow from private property and place that snow upon any public highway, road, street, pedestrian path, or bike path, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or to cause or contract for such removal and placement, within any designated snow area, as provided in this chapter. [4, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. Nos. 998, 1129]

70.430 Snow removal: Determination of snow areas and snow storage areas.

1. The following-described area within the unincorporated area of the county is hereby designated to be a snow area within the terms of sections 70.415 to 70.450, inclusive: That portion of the area generally and commonly known as the "Tahoe Basin" designated on the map on file in the office of the county clerk, which map is incorporated in and made a part of sections 70.415 to 70.450, inclusive.

2. In addition to the area described in subsection 1, the director of the department of public works has the authority to designate as additional snow areas any further portion of the unincorporated area of the county in



which, in his determination, snow conditions at the time of the designation are such that stopping, parking or leaving standing of a vehicle as described in section 70.425 would interfere with or obstruct or delay snow removal operations or cause conditions adverse to the safety of any person.

3. The director of the department of public works has the authority to designate areas within designated snow areas as snow storage areas for the purpose of depositing or storing snow collected from any public highway, road, street, pedestrian path, or bike path, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof. [5, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. No. 998]

70.435 Snow removal: Posting of snow areas and snow storage areas.

1. Boundaries of snow areas and snow storage areas as provided in this chapter shall be posted by signs in a manner and at such places as are reasonably calculated to give notice of snow area and snow storage area restrictions contained in sections 70.415 to 70.450, inclusive. Within the boundaries of such snow areas and snow storage areas, additional posting is not required but may be done at the discretion of the director of the department of public works.

2. Any area designated as a snow area or snow storage area by the director of the department of public works, as provided in this chapter, shall be posted as provided in subsection 1 above.

3. The department of public works shall erect and maintain the signs of a kind and quality comparable to road-information signs, in a manner designed to attract the attention of persons entering the area. [6, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. No. 998]

70.437 Designated winter enforcement periods; presumption of red period; notice; burden of proof.

1. Beginning November 1 and ending May 1, there shall be 2 types of designated winter enforcement periods - red and green as described below. The supervisor of the county road division located at Incline Village, or his designee, or the supervisor of the sheriff's Incline Village Substation, or his designee, has the authority to determine whether snow removal equipment will or may be operating and based upon that determination, designate the applicable winter enforcement period. Winter enforcement periods consist of the following:

(a) Red. During red periods, snow removal equipment is or may be operating and the winter parking restrictions set forth in section 70.425 will be enforced until the red period is suspended. During the period beginning November 1 and ending May 1, a red period is presumed to be in effect, unless and until notice of a green period has been given pursuant to this section.

(b) Green. During green periods, snow removal equipment is not expected to be operating and the winter parking restrictions set forth in section 70.425 will not be enforced.

2. To provide notice of the designated winter enforcement period



in effect, the department of public works or the sheriff's office will make a phone number available for the public to call which when called will provide recorded information regarding the designated winter enforcement periods. The department of public works or the sheriff's office may also notify the news media and request they broadcast or publish the designated winter enforcement period.

3. When a red period has been declared, the provisions of section 70.425 will be enforced. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, it is the public's responsibility to know which winter enforcement period is in effect. [1, Ord. No. 1129]

70.440 Snow removal: Notice of temporarily designated snow areas or snow storage areas. In addition to, but not in lieu of, any other posting or notice provisions or requirements, the director of the department of public works may, as he deems appropriate under the circumstances, provide for further notice to be given to the public concerning designated snow areas or snow storage areas. Such notice is to be given in such manner as is reasonable, including but not limited to additional posted notices or use of the news media. [Part '7, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. No. 998]

70.445 Snow removal: Destruction of signs. It is unlawful for any person to tear down, remove, mutilate, destroy or otherwise tamper with any sign erected pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. [8, Ord. No. 174; A Ord. No. 998]

70.450 Snow removal: Authorized emergency vehicles. Sections 70.415 to 70.450, inclusive, do not apply to drivers of authorized emergency vehicles when responding to an emergency call or fire alarm or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law. [10, Ord. No. 174]