



## WINTER STORM INFORMATION



### SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY

The Town of Belmont's snow and ice control policy is to make the roads passable and reasonably safe considering the weather conditions.

- **During a storm**, our objective is to keep the roads accessible for police, fire and ambulance services.
- **After the storm**, we strive to make the roads safe for the general public.

The [Highway Division](#) is responsible for treating and plowing more than 86 miles of streets, four municipal parking lots, the parking areas surrounding six public schools and most municipal buildings. The streets in Belmont have been divided into prioritized routes. Primary and secondary streets and hills receive priority attention due to traffic volume and/or potential safety hazards. During light snow and ice conditions, the streets are treated in sequence according to traffic volume or hazardous conditions and made safe as quickly as possible. We are committed to providing an effective, efficient service.



### SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING BAN

[Under the Town Bylaws](#), the Select Board may declare a Snow Emergency Parking Ban for additional hours when no parking is allowed on any street. The Bylaw was passed to allow the Highway Division to do a better job clearing the roadways. Parked cars force us to leave snow in the road and make the plow operator's job very difficult. Vehicles that are in violation of the parking ban will be towed.

**If declared, the parking ban will be announced by the Belmont Police Department (BPD) via a Reverse 911 call and on local television and radio news outlets. [REGISTER FOR BPD REVERSE 911 ALERTS](#)**



### RESIDENTIAL SIDEWALKS

[Belmont's General Bylaws require](#) sidewalks to be cleared on paved public sidewalks adjacent to residential property and made safe for pedestrians. **Residents have until 8:00 pm the day following the end of the storm to clear the sidewalk of snow, slush and ice adjacent to their property to ensure safe pedestrian passage.** For Bylaw enforcement, call the Code Enforcement Officer at 617-993-2657



### COMMERCIAL SIDEWALKS

The [Town's General Bylaw](#) (above) applies to owners and/or tenants of commercial property and states that the owner and/or tenant is responsible for the removal and treatment of ice and snow on the abutting sidewalks within twelve (12) hours after the same, shall cease to fall or be formed on such sidewalks. For Bylaw enforcement, call the Code Enforcement Officer at 617-993-2657



## **COPING WITH SNOW ACCUMLATION**

- Whenever possible, it is best to pile snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the street) to reduce the potential of having it redeposited at the driveway opening when the plow passes.
- When clearing driveways, snow should be kept on the owner’s property, the tree lawn or in the gutter. Snow should not be deposited onto the street or sidewalk, or across the street onto a neighbor’s sidewalk.
- To avoid having to do the job twice, shovel the driveway after the storm has passed and the street has been cleared.
- Rarely is the collection of trash and recyclables interrupted due to a winter storm.
- Prevent street flooding by clearing catch basins near your home to allow rain or melting snow to enter the drainage system.
- In the interest of you and your neighbor’s safety, shovel and clear fire hydrants of snow in your neighborhood.
- Older residents and / or persons with health problems should consult a physician before shoveling snow.

## **SHOVELING ASSISTANCE**

A limited number of volunteer snow shovelers may be available to assist senior citizens or handicapped persons with financial hardship Contact the Council on Aging at (617) 993-2970 to Volunteer or for assistance



## **PLOWING OPERATIONS**

Belmont’s streets are divided into plow routes. During significant snow storms, the streets on each route are plowed in sequence and made passable as quickly as possible. While it is snowing, the snowplow operators are instructed to “open up” each route. This means that they will keep at least one lane plowed so necessary police, fire and ambulance services can reach each resident at all times. When the storm abates, the plow operators “widen out” all streets by pushing the accumulated snow back towards the curb line and clearing the intersections. It is important that the operators push the snow back towards the curb line because if we experience an especially snowy winter, the snow will begin to limit the width of the roadway and compromise safety.

To avoid shoveling your property several times, residents should wait to clear their driveways until the plowing operation is finished (generally within two hours after the snow has stopped falling). Some residents prefer to clear snow periodically to avoid having to move a lot of snow at one time.



## **TOWN SIDEWALKS & MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS**

When there is a significant snow storm, the Town of Belmont will plow sidewalks adjacent to public property as soon as possible. At times, it may be necessary to remove snow from business districts and municipal parking lots. When snow removal is scheduled or in progress, temporary “Snow Removal—No Parking” signs will be posted.

**The Town of Belmont DPW [Highway Division](#) would like to thank all residents for abiding by the By-Laws discussed in this document.**