



# Town of Islip

ANGIE M. CARPENTER, SUPERVISOR

ISLIP TOWN BOARD

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— Winter 2016

## Winter Weather Safety

### Snow and Ice Policies and Procedures

Dear Islip Resident:

The following newsletter contains important information about policies and procedures followed during the winter months – as well as useful tips – that will help our Department of Public Works, working with our residents, to ensure a safe winter season.

We appreciate your effort to read through the following pages to learn more about how Department of Public Works staff work their way through the challenges of the season.

Very respectfully,

Angie M. Carpenter  
Islip Town Supervisor



## PARKING & TRAVEL REGULATIONS

**No vehicle may park on a street in a residential or business district during a declared snow emergency at any time. Additionally, vehicles may not be parked on a street in a residential or business district from December 15<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 3:00 am and 6:00 am regardless of whether or not a snow emergency is declared.**

## FAQ's

**Q. Why does the Highway Department provide snow and ice control?**

*A. To keep roadways open and safe for emergency response by the Police, Fire and Ambulance services and to provide access to home, work, school and mobility to all Islip residents.*

**Q. Why does the Highway Department have to plow from curb to curb?**

*A. To keep the streets clean of snow and ice, and allow melting snow to reach catch basins.*

**Q. Why should I not throw snow back into the street?**

*A. Snow thrown back onto the roadway may freeze causing hazardous road conditions. You may cause injury to family, friends or neighbors.*

**Q. I cannot shovel my driveway because I am elderly or disabled, what should I do?**

*A. Make arrangements with a family member, friend, and neighbor or hire a contractor to do this for you.*

**Q. My car was towed, where is it?**

*A. Call Public Safety at 631-224-5300.*

**Q. Who can I call if I have a question regarding the Town's snow removal service?**

*A. Call the Town of Islip Highway Department at 631-224-5610.*

**Q. I'd like to make a suggestion on snow removal: Where should I send it?**

*A. Send suggestions to the Town of Islip Highway Department at 401 Main Street, Islip, NY 11751 or you may send a Fax 631-224-5243 or Email to [commissioner-dpw@islipny.gov](mailto:commissioner-dpw@islipny.gov).*

# Snow Storm Procedures — *What you need to know*

## BEFORE THE SNOW FALLS

Beginning as early as August, the Town of Islip, Department of Public Works begins preparing for the winter months ahead by reviewing snow removal routes and servicing all of our snow related equipment. Preparation and servicing of equipment for the upcoming winter continues through November, while the Highway Department continues to prepare for the winter season.

By early November, all of the DPW salt storage facilities are full to capacity and maintained regularly along with our Brine Units.

## WHEN THE SNOWFALL STARTS

An important step in dealing with snowfall is street brining. Please note that brining is a process where a salt emulsion is sprayed on the road surface to aide us in our snow removal operation. Top priority is given to the Town's main roads that have the heaviest year-round traffic and usually are major arteries running north/south or east/west that have double yellow centerlines.

The snow removal process starts when frozen precipitation begins falling. Operations

initiate with the application of rock salt and liquid chloride to the roads and continue until the streets are clear or material application is no longer effective due to the depth of the snow.

## WHEN THE SNOWFALL CONTINUES

Once the snow is plowable, we move from a salt/sand operation to a full-blown plow effort. All public roads, main thoroughfares and residential streets will be plowed by Highway Department personnel. Our first responsibility is to open the main roads. These arterials are the key to providing safe access for emergency vehicles as well as maintaining the steady flow of traffic since most residents live within a few blocks of such a route. The plows then continue to all streets on the route to "open up" each one in sequence. If the storm continues in intensity, the trucks remain in that same pattern until the storm abates. At that time, the trucks begin to "widen out" all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back to the curb line and clearing intersections.

Remember, trained crews work around the clock during these storms to keep the roads open and passable. If you wish to

report a hazardous condition during the hours of 9am - 5pm, call the Highway Department at 631-224-5610. During non-business hours, you can call Town of Islip Public Safety at 631-224-5300. If you have a medical emergency call 911.

## AFTER THE STORM IS OVER

Crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and areas where winds redeposit the snow in traffic lanes. Usually an application of salt and/or sand is applied to all streets so the surface remains drivable. You may wish to avoid a potential problem and also be of assistance to your neighbors by cleaning off a catch basin or shoveling out a nearby fire hydrant.

Please avoid creating a hazard by discarding snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway. Do not block sidewalks. For those residents who have a snow plowing contractor, advise them not to plow your snow into the road or onto sidewalks opposite your driveway.

Business owners and owners of multiple dwellings are required to clear snow in order to permit access to the building for fire and other emergency service vehicles.

## HELPING US HELP YOU

*Be Prepared, Be Aware and Be Patient*

Before it snows, remember last year's problems and try to tackle them in advance. If you do handle your own snow removal, have your tools and supplies handy. Shovels, snow blowers, calcium chloride, rock salt and sand should be ready before the season begins. If you hire someone to do your snow removal, make those arrangements early. It can be difficult to find someone in the middle of a storm.

Make arrangements to have adequate food supplies on hand. Keep flashlights, a battery powered radio and emergency equipment on hand in case of disruption in the power supply.

Area news media will announce approaching storms and will disseminate information on school closings and meeting cancellations. They will also note road closings or re-routings.

Please do not go out during or immediately after a snowstorm unless it is truly necessary. Crews have many hours of hard work to complete their snow clearing operations. Less traffic on the road means that we will be able to clear the roads more quickly and completely. Under the best of conditions, it will take us at least 12 to 16 hours from the time it stops snowing completely, to complete our snow removal operations.

Remember, whether it is your driveway for which you are responsible or the 1,200 miles of roads for which we are responsible, snow removal is an arduous and time consuming task. Please understand that the Highway Department cannot shovel ridges or windrows from your driveway entrance, nor can we plow private property.



## HELPFUL TIPS & SUGGESTIONS

- When shoveling out the mouth of your driveway, throw it to the right of your driveway as you face the street or "downstream". Throwing or plowing snow in the road can create a patch of snow and ice that freezes over and causes a hazardous condition. Besides, it will only be re-deposited when the plow comes around again.
- If at all possible, finish clearing your driveway entrance after the final widening pass has been completed.
- **Helpful Hint:** Leave a strip of snow at the edge of your driveway; this will block some of the snow from entering your driveway when the plow widens the roadway. The final widening pass is usually completed approximately 12-16 hours after the snow stops completely. This, of course, depends on the severity of the storm.
- Plan alternate ways and extra time to travel to main routes and to your place of employment.
- **REMEMBER!** Slow down, brake slowly and allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- During times of reduced visibility, watch for pedestrians, bicycles and disabled vehicles.
- Maintain your vehicle properly. Equip your car with snow tires and keep your windshield, headlights and taillights clean at all times.
- **Clean Streets = Clean Streams** – Storm drains provide routes for rain water and snow melt to flow away from our streets and prevent flooding and potential ice conditions. Help us keep our storm drains clean. Do not place brush, leaves or snow on the road pavement as these materials will add pollution to our waters, and block drains and cause flooding and ice conditions.